

The Anointing of a New King

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 2 Chronicles 15:2

KEYS—Have you ever thought about how important a small key is? Keys are necessary to drive our vehicles, unlock our front doors or open the lock on a treasure chest. A key is a small object that unlocks great things. They are needed in our everyday lives. There are also “keys” in the Bible. There are truths, or keys, in God’s Word. Once we understand these keys, they help us to understand how our relationship works with God. The key that we will learn about throughout this study is found in 2 Chronicles 15:2

“The Lord is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”

God gives each of us the key to our relationship with Him. Do you want God to be with you? Then YOU will have to be with God. Do you want to find God? Then YOU seek Him. Do you wonder why God has forsaken you.... did YOU forsake Him first? This is the key. We get to decide if we want to draw closer to God, or fall further away, and then He follows our lead. God gives each one of us the key and allows us to “lead” in our relationship. What will we do with this key? Let’s look and see what Saul did with this key.

Israel’s New King: Saul. (1 Samuel 12) (Picture 2-1) Saul was Israel’s first earthly king. Israel wanted to be like the other nations and have a physical leader who would go before them in battle. And so God gave them Saul—tall, handsome and rich. God gave Saul another heart and He also touched the hearts of the men of valor that surrounded Saul. God helped Saul in his new role as king.

The Ammonites (Israel’s enemy) were threatening the Israelites and Saul led his troops against them and God gave them victory. Israel went to Gilgal where they renewed the kingdom. (2-2) They sacrificed peace offerings to God, and the people rejoiced greatly. Samuel made a farewell address to the people and stressed the importance that the people AND the king were to obey God for it to go well with them. But IF they rebelled against God, then God would be against them. Do you see how Samuel was emphasizing the “key” to their success as a nation? “If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. ¹⁵ But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king.” God gave Israel the key to their survival as a nation—it was obedience by both their king AND the people.

Saul’s downfall (1 Samuel 13, 15) God gave Saul a new heart and he began well. But it wasn’t long until Saul started CHOOSING to be disobedient to God. There was a time when enemies approached who well outnumbered his troops. The army started to desert him and they hid wherever they could find-- in caves, holes, and wells. Samuel was to come and offer the sacrifice, but was late in coming. (2-3) Saul began to panic. He wanted to have God’s favor. So, he “forced himself” to offer the sacrifice himself instead of waiting for Samuel.

Saul was trying to be obedient by offering a sacrifice (the right action). But he was sacrificing with the WRONG person offering it--God commanded the priests to offer the sacrifices. He had the right action, but the wrong way to do it. Some call this “the end justifies the means”. To man this might not seem like a big deal, but to God, this was an act of disobedience in His eyes. In reality, Saul was disobeying God to obey God. This was not pleasing to God. Saul disobeyed God by offering a sacrifice himself instead of waiting to have a priest to offer it, as God had commanded. In God’s eyes, this was a sin. It would’ve

been better to have obeyed God than to have offered a sacrifice in a disobedient way. (2-4) And because of this foolish act, God was going to look for a man after God's own heart to take Saul's place. Having this kind of leader to begin the reign of kings of God's people was unacceptable.

(2-5) Saul continued on as king. He overwhelmingly defeated his enemies and was bold and courageous and delivered Israel out of the hands of their enemies. If Saul saw a valiant (boldly courageous) man, he recruited him to be in his army.

One day, God had very specific instructions for Saul to do to the enemies of God—the Amalekites. He was to destroy this nation and their animals for something they did years ago. Saul fought against them and obeyed MOST of the commands. (2-6) But he saved the king and the best of the animals. They were saving the best ones to offer as a sacrifice to God. That sounds good, doesn't it? But THINK about it: God told them to DESTROY the people and the animals. AGAIN, they were disobeying God (by not destroying the best ones) to obey God (to offer sacrifices to Him.) Disobeying God to obey God—the “end justifies the means”—is not obeying God in all things. (2-7) Since Saul rejected God's Word, God rejected him as king and would tear the kingdom away from Saul. Do you see the principle of the key at work in this story? Saul rejected God, so God rejected Saul. Remember it was Saul's choices that caused God's rejection. God regretted that He made Saul king over Israel.

Anointing a man after God's own heart as King. (1 Samuel 16). (2-8) God told Samuel to fill his horn with oil and go to Bethlehem to Jesse, for one of his sons would be the new king. Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to come to the sacrifice. (2-9) Samuel looked at Eliab, Jesse's oldest son, and thought this would be the king. But God said, “Do not look at his appearance or the height of this stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees. Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” God did not choose Abinadab or Shammah, the next two oldest brothers. All seven sons passed by and God did not choose any of them. (2-10) “Are all your sons here?”, Samuel asked. Jesse said the youngest son was with the sheep. So, they sent for him. His name was David.(2-11)

He was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. God said, “Anoint him, for this is he.” Then Samuel anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And God's Spirit rushed on David from that day forward.

It would be a long time before David would become the new king of Israel. He had some growing up to do first. But he was already becoming known for being a man of war, a man of valor, prudent in speech, a man of good presence and for the Lord being with him. Besides that, he was skillful in playing a lyre (musical instrument). David went into Saul's service and would play for him whenever a harmful spirit tormented Saul. Plus, he also became Saul's armor bearer. This young man was the man after God's own heart and God would use him to shepherd his people.

Our KEY to our relationship with God....“The Lord is with you while you are with him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.” Saul rejected God, so God rejected Saul. (This is how Saul used his key.)

The “end justifies the means” or you disobey God to obey God is an act of disobedience to God—not obedience. God wants complete obedience, for this is how it shows that we love Him.

The man after God's own heart was DAVID, and Samuel anointed David to be the next king.