

SERMON SERIES: The Calling: Standing Tall, Falling Hard

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Key Line

Who or what is the king of my life?

Introduction

Someone or something is ruling your life.

- What are some of the things that rule people's lives today?

Our allegiance reveals itself through obedience.

Seek the Word

In the beginning of I Samuel, we read about Hannah. She wanted a baby, and she went to the temple to pray. She prayed so fervently that Eli the priest thought she was drunk.

Read I Samuel 1:11.

- What did Hannah promise to do if God would give her a son? (*Dedicate him to God*). Did she follow through on her promise? What did she do? (*Yes. She took him to the temple to serve there.*)

Read I Samuel 3:1-11.

- When he was serving in the temple, Samuel heard a voice calling. Eli eventually realized it was God calling him. What did he tell Samuel to say to God when he spoke again? (*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening*).
- What do you learn from his response to God?

In I Samuel 8, the Israelites asked God for a king.

- Who had been their king up until this point? (*God*)

Read I Samuel 8:6-21.

- God agreed to give them a king. What did he say the king would do to them? (*Take their children, tax them, etc.*)

God chose Saul to be their king. Read I Samuel 10:22.

- Where was Saul? (*Hiding among the donkeys.*)
- What does this show us about Saul? (*From an early age, Saul said no to God. He was resistant in the beginning.*)

Initially, Saul led the people well. However, at one point he led the people in victory over the Amalekites and did not obey when God told him to kill everyone. Read I Samuel 15:10-11 and 22.

- What did he do that did not please God? (*He did not destroy everyone. He did what he wanted, not what God wanted.*)
- What did God say was better than sacrifice? (*To obey*)

Talk About It

- What kind of excuses do you give when you know what God wants you to do but you don't want to do it?
- What does this say about what you want in your relationship with God? (*You don't want God to be king in your life.*)
- What do you need to do to make God king in your life?