**When You Were Little in Your Own Eyes**

*1 Samuel 15:17-19*

**Introduction**

1. History of Israel:
   1. Israel grew as a nation, and oppressed by Egyptians.
   2. God delivered Israel from the Egyptians.
   3. Shortly after, on their way through the wilderness to Sinai, Amalek attacks Israel, and by the help of God they prevail.
      1. God said, “I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven” (Exodus 17:14).
   4. At Kadesh Barnea, spies bring back evil report – lack faith in God – sentenced to wander in the wilderness 40 yrs.
   5. 2nd generation allowed entrance, and with the leadership of Joshua Israel takes the Canaan land.
   6. After failing to destroy all of the Canaanites, Israel is influenced by them, and a generation arose who did not know the Lord.
   7. God delivered them into the hands of enemies, and rose up Judges to deliver them when they cried to the Lord for help.
   8. Samuel, one of the last judges, appoints his sons judges in his old age.
   9. Israel complains of their unfaithfulness, and demands a king. (They rejected God from being their king.)
   10. Saul is appointed king, and is told in 1 Samuel 15 to heed the voice of the Lord and utterly destroy Amalek for what they had done to Israel.
   11. Saul claimed to have obeyed God, but Samuel reproved him for his sin – he spared Agag, and the best things and animals to sacrifice to God.
2. Samuel points out one of the problems that led to Saul’s disobedience as king – he was no longer little in his own eyes (**cf. 1 Samuel 15:13-19).**
3. Let us consider Samuel’s words, and learn a valuable lesson from them.
4. Saul
5. When He Was Little
   1. ***“When you were little in your own eyes…” (1 Samuel 15:17)***.
      1. I.e. when Saul thought little of himself.
      2. He was not filled with pride, and did not consider himself above anyone or anything.
   2. **Saul chosen as king:**
      1. **1 Samuel 9:1-2** – Where Saul was from, and a description of him. Yet, still he was “little in his own eyes…”
      2. **1 Samuel 9:19-21** – While looking for lost donkeys, God had brought Saul to Samuel, informing him that the one who should be king was coming.
         1. **Samuel mentioned the desire of Israel – to have a king – that Saul would be that man.**
         2. Later, more explicitly Samuel stated the matter to him.
         3. **Saul was of humble countenance, and did not think himself worthy of such consideration.**
      3. **1 Samuel 10:20-24** – Saul proclaimed king before the people.
         1. **(v. 22)** – He was hidden among the equipment – does not state why specifically, but it is likely that he was timid.
         2. **1 Samuel 15:17** – When Saul thought of himself in such a manner, he was anointed king.
6. When He Was Big
   1. **Saul allowed his position to go to his head, and he began to disobey the Lord in various ways.**
   2. After already disobeying him by offering up an unlawful sacrifice when he did not wait on Samuel, **Saul sinned against the Lord by sparing the Amalekite king, and spoils of the Amalekites**.
   3. **1 Samuel 15:13-19, 26** – When Saul was little, God anointed him king, and when he was big, He rejected him as king.
7. **It is obvious that when we puff ourselves up against God, He is displeased. We must maintain littleness of self in our own eyes 🡪**
8. We as Christians
9. When We Were Little
   1. **Matthew 18:1-5** – Disciples arguing (*Mark and Luke indicate*) about who will be the greatest of them in the kingdom, and ask Jesus.
      1. A requirement to enter the kingdom of God is to become as a child.
      2. ***“humbles himself”*** – the idea of becoming as a child is one of humility, not immaturity.
      3. **NOTE CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHILD – need care, protection, support, guidance, etc.**
   2. **Matthew 5:3** – Poor in spirit will be members of kingdom.
      1. Consideration of humility.
      2. You have nothing without Christ – must rely upon Him.
      3. **Recognition of own littleness…**
   3. ***“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:10)***.
   4. **The man who is forgiven of his sins, and is granted entrance into the kingdom of God is the one who is little in his own eyes, and therefore is exalted by God.**
   5. *When we forget this… 🡪*
10. When We Are Big
    1. Corinthians:
       1. **1 Corinthians 1:4-7** – Came short in no gift (spiritual gift).
          1. Good thing.
          2. Necessary for the growth of the church. However…🡪
       2. **Some became big in their own eyes, therefore, others became small in their eyes:**
          1. **1 Corinthians 12:20-22, 27-31** – Some thought themselves to be something because of the gift they had (tongue speaking), but Paul showed that all were needed.
          2. The ***“more excellent way”*** was love of ***chapter 13 – “love does not parade itself, is not puffed up”*** – i.e. is humble, and seeks the needs of others.
       3. Their pride caused many problems:
          1. **Division** – I am of Paul, Apollos, Cephas, Christ.
          2. **Putting up with immorality** – you are puffed up and have not rather mourned.
          3. **Taking brethren to court in front of the Gentiles.**
          4. **Causing brethren to stumble.**
          5. **SEE WHAT THEIR PRIDE CAUSED!!**
    2. ***When we lose our sense of littleness, we sin against God, and our neighbor.***
    3. **James 4:6-10** – What God wants us to do – humble yourself!
11. We Must Grow in Littleness
    1. *God requires us to maintain our sense of littleness, i.e. remain humble, before Him and others****. How can we grow in this humility?***
    2. **Come before God often:**
       1. **Isaiah 6:1-5** – Isaiah’s vision of the throne of God.
          1. Recognized His greatness, holiness, etc.
          2. This cause Isaiah to feel small!
       2. **Isaiah 40:21-23** – We must come before God to see His greatness, and always understand our place before Him.
       3. **The more time we spend before God in worship, study, prayer, etc. the more we will recognize our littleness.**
    3. **Come before our brethren as servants:**
       1. **Philippians 2:3-4** – We must esteem each other better, and serve each other’s interests.
       2. **John 13:12-17** – After Jesus washed the disciples’ feet – If Jesus stooped in humility, so should we.
       3. **Romans 12:3-5** – Not to think highly of ourselves because of our abilities, but use those abilities in service of God, and the body of Christ.
       4. **When we give ourselves in service one to another, the lesser we will view ourselves, and the greater we will view each other – by this God is pleased, and a congregation thrives.**

**Conclusion**

1. God required us to become as children to enter the kingdom, and in order to remain there and pleasing to God, we must grow in such humility.
2. Saul was exalted because he was little in his own eyes, but when he forgot his littleness, he sinned against God and was brought low.
3. **We must always remain little in our own eyes if we wish to be pleasing to God!**