

Blessed is the man that fear the LORD

Part 3

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.” (Proverbs 29:25 KJV)

God had created each and every one of us for a good and noble purpose. Therefore we need to be trained to fear the Lord so that we will be able to go on in life achieving the purpose that God had created for.

We will discuss in this message the calling of Saul, when the Lord called him to be a king over his people Israel. God used the prophet Samuel to anoint Saul to be a king over Israel, ***“Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?” (1 Samuel 10:1 KJV)*** Here Samuel declared to Saul that he will not only be an anointed king to serve the people of God, but he will be the captain over God’s people, that he will be the one to lead them out to battles and to bring them in from battles.

Further we can read that Samuel confirmed Saul as King over Israel when he was chosen by casting lot as we can read this event here: ***“17 And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh; 18 And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you: 19 And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands. 20 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken. 21 When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found. 22 Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold he hath hid himself among the stuff. 23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. 24 And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king. 25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. 26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched. 27 But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought no presents. But he held his peace.” (1 Samuel 10:17-27 KJV)*** Saul was finally taken by the lot, ***“And when they sought him, he could not be found. 22 Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold he hath hid himself among the stuff.” (1 Samuel 10:21-22 KJV)*** Now the question here is this: Why Saul was hiding? As the tribe of Benjamin was taken he was so aware that he will finally be taken and announced to be

the king. Therefore, intentionally he hid himself, possibly thinking that if they will not find him, they will elect another person to be a king instead of him. That is most likely the true intention of Saul to hide, that they might be forced to get another person to be a king instead of him. The people inquired from God if he already had come, and the Lord confirmed that he had come and He gave them the place where he is hiding so they can find him, ***“And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.” (1 Samuel 10:23 KJV)***

Do you hide like Saul when God is calling you to do the work of God? Check yourself in the presence of God and let the Holy Spirit search you to find what inside you that is unpleasant to the Lord so you will repent of it.

Why Saul did not want to become a king and to be announced as king over Israel? Someone may say humility or a self denial. But I don't think so. The Lord is the one who called Saul to become a king. Saul was God’s choice for the people’s request to have a king. Saul knew that God is the one who had called him to be a king. Therefore when he hid himself, there should be a reason or reasons that was operating in his life and personality that forbidden him to respond to God’s call.

What is your reason when you hide from God’s call when he is calling you to achieve a crucial thing in the life of God’s church and in the life of the people of God? Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart and your thoughts so that you can discover yourself and what is wrong with you in failing God’s call.

I believe the same it is happening in many people lives when they have such personality and attitude that they would do all what they can to excuse themselves and to avoid God’s call in their life. Even later on when they will pursue that call they will show an erratic behaviors and attitude that ultimately cause displeasure to God and finally God’s rejection.

We can trace out Saul’s denial to that call of God to his first meeting he had with Samuel where we will find out the root causes for that. Samuel in his first meeting with Saul, he told him that the desire of Israel to have a king will be fulfilled on him and is on his father house. ***“And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?” (1 Samuel 9:20 KJV)*** When Saul heard such, he was shocked; he not only did not expect it but he also tried to deny it as he answered Samuel with the following: ***“21 And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?” (1 Samuel 9:21 KJV)*** He expressed, in this way, his fear from the big post to become a king that Samuel declared to him: He told Samuel that He is a Benjamite, of the smallest tribe, and his family the least of the families of Benjamin. How then he can manage to become a king and he need to face big people and deal with them? What he expressed to Samuel is this: How he can face big challenges and become a king, while he himself had come from a small family and now he is called to face a big crowd and big influential people of various kinds?

Are you such kind of person when God is calling you, you do all what you can to excuse yourself because you are afraid of people?

To support that view about the reasons behind Saul behaviours, we can also review part of the discussion that Saul had with his uncle about his meeting with the prophet Samuel, *“15 And Saul's uncle said, Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you. 16 And Saul said unto his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not.”* (1 Samuel 10:15-16 KJV) Saul did not mention to his uncle about the matter of the kingdom because Saul did not accept it from his heart, and if you ask Saul about that, he would better drop it if he would can.

With these input, the question is ‘Why Saul was reluctant to become king?’ Because of the following reasons:

1. Weak personality due to weak background as we stated that he came from small tribe and the smallest family in that tribe: He was not educated person, his job was looking after the donkeys of his father, then how he can cope now to become a king? Many people refuse to respond properly to God’s call because they have fear and are timid with inferiority complex due to internal factors related to their backgrounds (family background, nationality background, educational background, etc.) *Check yourself now and see if you are a person who keep weak personality, and keep hold on wrong excuses and do your best not to accept challenges and the struggles of life?*

2. Fear from taking the responsibility: Saul knew that once he occupied the post of the king, then he needs to wage war against the Ammonites. The reason that the people requested to have a king because the threat of the Ammonites, and the people wanted to have a king to fight the battle for them; the prophet Samuel mentioned that to the people when he confronted them with their sins and their reason to ask for a king: *“12 And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the LORD your God was your king.”* (1 Samuel 12:12 KJV) So Saul knew that once he accepts, and he is in the office, then he need to wage that war against the Ammonites. *Are you such a person who refuse to respond to God’s call just to avoid facing a war and a conflict with our enemy the devil? God would reject you if you refuse to face devil. Don’t love your life so much. You can overcome devil by the blood of Jesus, and by your good testimony and the style of life that you live for Jesus and by not loving yourself more than God: “10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”* (Revelation 12:10-11 KJV)

3. He was afraid of jealous and envious people: Samuel explained to the people the rule of the kingdom, *“25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD.”* (1 Samuel 10:25 KJV) Therefore Saul knew that he will exercise authority on the people and that may lead him to have conflict with them, and possibly he was abhorrent of such. Saul was ridiculed by people of the sons of Belial, *“27 But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought no presents. But he held his peace.”* (1 Samuel

10:27 KJV) Saul was a weak person before men. He has fear from men. You notice that the sons of Belial even they despised him but he held his peace not because he is a peace maker, but because he has the fear of man. *Are you afraid to respond to the call of God because you are afraid of jealous people and afraid to have rule and authority over certain evil people who need to be disciplined and corrected? Don’t be afraid to accept God’s call because of Devil or because of those who work with Devil. The Lord shall be with you. He will fight for you, “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”* (Revelation 2:10 KJV)

4. Saul knew that he was called by God to be a king based on the idea and the request of the people; that idea was abhorred by God: *“And the LORD said unto Samuel, Harken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”* (1 Samuel 8:7 KJV) Saul knew that when He will become a king, he should stand with God against the people, and work with God to discipline them. He knew that God will discipline the people through his rule as a king, by the privileges that God would give to the king. Samuel in his meeting with the people told them and explained to them well the rules of the kingdom, *“9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. 10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. 11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. 12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. 13 And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. 14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. 15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. 16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. 17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. 18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.”* (1 Samuel 8:9-18 KJV) These privileges you cannot find anywhere else in the Bible, so most likely these rules God stated here to deal justly with those who rejected God’s leadership over their lives. So here Saul knew very well that he need to go through conflict with the people. He is called to implement God’s discipline on them; that he needs to take their sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, to be his horsemen: and some shall run before his chariots: and he will appoint them captains over thousands and captains over fifties: and will set them to prepare the ground to plant: and to reap his harvest: and to make his instruments of war: and instruments of his chariots. Saul knew that he needs to take their daughters and use them to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he need to take their fields, and their vineyards, and their oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he needs to take the tenth of their seed, and of their vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he needs to take their menservants, and their maidservants, and the best of their young men, and their asses, and put them for the benefits of his work. And he needs to take the tenth of their sheep, and they shall be his servants. That is why Saul was not interested much to be a king because ultimately he will be in conflict with

many people. But that is not correct thinking. He should be courageous because he knew that God is with him and to be strong to deal with the people. He should be complying with God wishes and desires. He should rather fear God and not the people.

I am not telling here that the king should do such things to the people and use them in such a bad way, but whatever discipline God had ordained he needed to go along with it.

When God is calling you to do certain work for him, then you need to comply with Him and do whatever He asks of you; even to discipline the people and excute on them whatever God is asking you to do.

Let us be aware and notice that God did not leave Saul alone but God did miracle to Saul when he touch the hearts of certain men who went with him, **“And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.” (1 Samuel 10:26 KJV)** These men were a token from God to Saul to support him so he will be aware that God is with Him. These men were a token from God to Saul to support him so he will continue to serve God in the manner that pleases God. When God is calling you, He will provide for you, He will guide you, He will protect you, He will fight the battle for you, He will change the heart of people, and He will aid you in whatever way He wishes, and He will continue to be with you, neither leave nor forsake you as long as you are willing to be with Him till He will accomplish what He had promised.

To be a coward and to fear man is sin. God will judge the fearful people of God who fear people and fail God in the things entrusted to them because they fear the people, **“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:8 KJV)** We see here God put the list of sinners who will not inherit eternal life. The first in the list are those who are fearful. Their fear will lead them to do sin or they will condone the rest of the sins in the list. Therefore they will not enter the kingdom of God because they did not do God’s will. Their fear of people hindered them from pursuing God’s will.

My Dear and Beloved: Apostle Paul instructed Timothy not to be ashamed of him, but to trust in God and to hold on the testimony of Jesus and the testimony of Paul in serving the Lord. **“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.” (2 Timothy 1:8 KJV)** Paul encouraged Timothy to be strong and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to do the good things that God wanted him to do, **“6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:6-7 KJV)** Paul reminded Timothy about what the Holy Spirit is giving to him from love, power and sound mind that will finally enable him to do what is right and just and ultimately fulfilling God’s will.

God had given us the Holy Spirit that gives us courage, to fill us with love and to give us sound mind to go on and serve Him. Power, love and sound mind we have from God, and He will also give us people whom God had touched their heart to serve Him with us.

Therefore let us fear God and stand for God and start to serve Him wholeheartedly doing the whole will of God. Let us obey God and do what we are asked to do even if people would hate us and trouble us, for we need to fear Him and not to fear the people. He will neither leave us nor forsake us. He will protect us and He will provide all our needs as He find us faithful, obedient, and firm in our stand in implementing His will in our lives and in the lives of the people who are under our care.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life.

Lord I commit myself to live in the fears of you and to delight myself to obey all your commands.

Lord I commit myself to obey your Word and to implement them into my life and in the life of the people who are under my care.

Let us confess our sins, let us confess our fear of men, our laziness, and our lack of commitment.

Let us confess our sins to God.

Lord forgive me my sins _____.

Lord I commit myself not to fear man, trusting you that you will help me in my life and you will save me from whatever trouble that may come from man.

Lord fills me once again with your Holy Spirit, so that I may go forward in serving you and doing the very things that you please with. Lord I am sure that you will raise up people with me, whom you have touched their hearts to help me to go on and serve you. Lord my hope and my life is in you, and I believe that you have a good plan for me and you will be going to fulfill it. I thank you and I praise you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had committed their lives to serve you and to do your will. Lord provides their needs. Refill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need to evangelize and go and make disciples. Lord I pray that you transform their lives that they will be a good testimony to others to know you and to follow you.

Lord blesses your church and bestow on us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and make disciples of all nations. Lord enables us to evangelize and to reach the lost and new areas with the Gospel of Jesus. Lord helps us to plant more Bible studies and to raise up more disciples to serve you. Lord continues to protect us and provide all our needs. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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