

THE STORY... HIS STORY

Chapter 10

Standing Tall, Falling Hard



THE STORY

Plot Points

- God seeks people who will trust Him in all circumstances.
- Even after the Lord brings blessings to his people, they are not faithful.
- God's people should not conform to the world around them.
- Humility is the key to leadership.



Cast of Characters

- **Eli-** Priest of the Lord at Shiloh; mentor to Samuel; died when the ark of the covenant fell into the hands of the Philistines.
- **Hannah and Elkanah-** Parents of Samuel.
- **Samuel-** A prophet of the LORD and final Judge in Israel. Dedicated to the Lord before his conception, raised in the temple, anointed Saul, then David to be kings of Israel. Name means, “God hears.”



Cast of Characters

- **Saul**- First King of Israel; began his rule in apparent humility and ended in madness; in between, proved again and again that human kings are no substitute for the Lord.
- **Jonathan**- Son of Saul; loyal friend of David.



“Speak O Lord...”

- A familiar Sunday school story with an application for worship.
- Samuel models the proper response to the words of God, a response marked by a teachable willingness to follow the direction and guidance of the Lord.
- This marks the main problem of the people



“Speak O Lord...”

- It seems that listening to God is not on the mind of the people. Even Eli’s sons, who were priests, do not listen to God.
- The people have forgotten the words of the Lord and his assurance of protection.
- They have lusted after idols and have grown envious of the political might and power of the nations around them.



“Speak O Lord...”

- It is not an ancient problem.
- We often do not want to hear the words of the Lord.
- But it is the Word made flesh who came to speak love in action.
- It is His words spoken and recorded that form the foundation of our faith



“Speak O Lord...”

- We need to be like Samuel and humbly say, “Speak O Lord.”
- VIDEO
- This is incarnational theology!
- The Word of God is a means of grace.



Samuel

- Unfortunately Samuel's sons did not listen to the Word of God either.
 - *“But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.”* (p. 135- *The Story*)
- The people ask again for a king.
 - *“You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as the other nations have.”* (p. 135- *The Story*)



- Why was it wrong for Israel to ask for a king?



THE STORY

King Saul

- Handsome
- Tall
- Anointed



THE STORY

The Anointed

- describes the procedure of rubbing or smearing a person or thing, usually with oil, for the purpose of healing, setting apart, or embalming.



The Anointed

- The Hebrew verb *mashach* (noun, *messiah*) and the Greek verb *chrío* (noun, *christos*) are translated “to anoint.”
- From ancient times the priests and kings were ceremonially anointed as a sign of official appointment to office, and as a symbol of God's power upon them.
- Likewise, Israel ([Psalms 89:38](#)), and even Cyrus ([Isaiah 45:1](#)) are called God's anointed because of God's working through them.
- Israel came to see each succeeding king as God's anointed one, the *messiah* who would deliver them from their enemies and establish God's presence on the earth.



Jesus was anointed

- John 12:1-11



THE STORY

You have been anointed too!!

- 2 Corinthians 1:21-22



THE STORY

Saul

- Saul was anointed by Samuel then...
- *“The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you , and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person...As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart...”* (p. 137-138- *The Story*)



A New Creation

In Christ



A New Creation

2 Corinthians 5:17

- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21



THE STORY

Saul

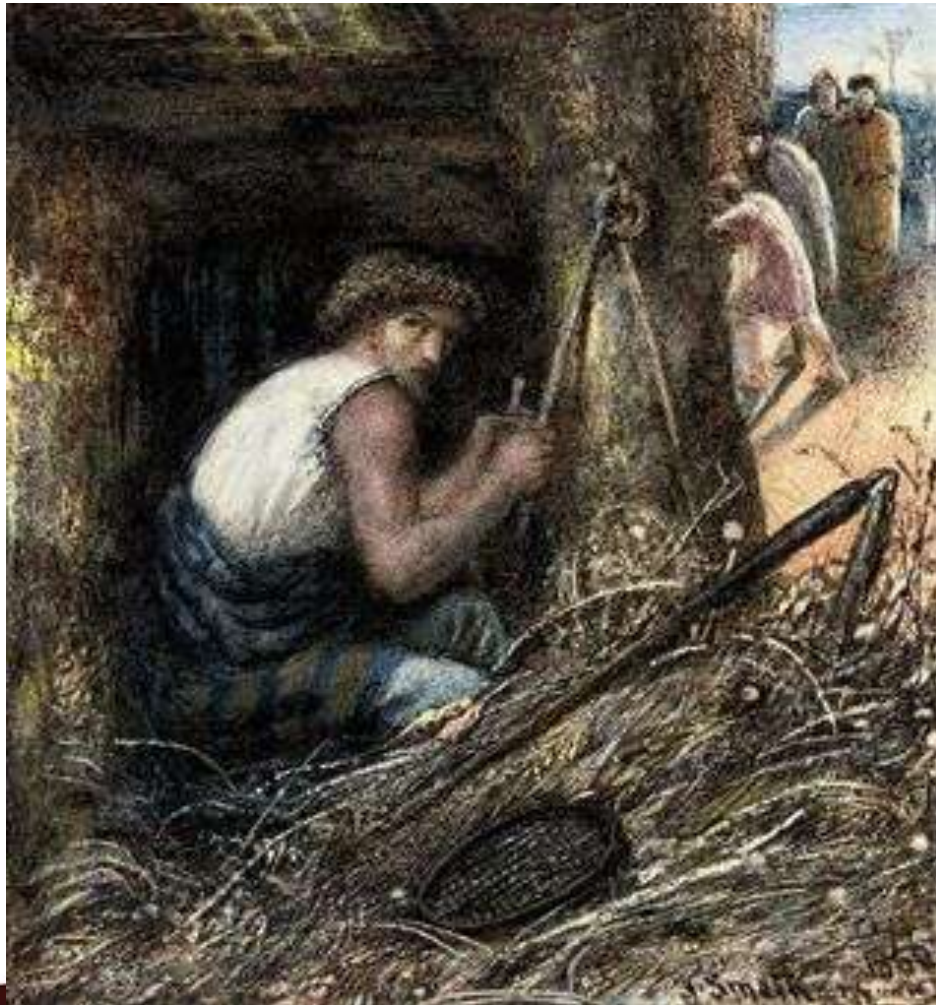
- Chosen
- Anointed
- Changed



THE STORY

Saul

- Hiding among the supplies...sound familiar??



THE STORY

King Saul

- Saul tried to do the right thing but always seemed to mess things up.
- *“‘You have done a foolish thing,’ Samuel said. ‘You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.’”* (p. 142- *The Story*)



King Saul

- Saul tried to do things his own way and kept getting into trouble.
- How did Saul respond when confronted with his sin?
- How do you respond when confronted with your own shortcomings?



Speak O Lord

- Confession
- 1 John 1:8-10
- **ὁμολογέω** [*homologeō* /hom·ol·og·eh·o/]
 - **1** to say the same thing as another, i.e. to agree with, assent.
 - **2** to concede.

James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996), G3670.

