

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



Week of February 27th

We will continue sending out this combination of the newsletter and bulletin to keep you up to date on announcements, prayers, needs and scheduled activities for those that are uncomfortable to attend service yet.

Included will be the usual newsletter information along with prayers, scripture and a sermon.

We hope that you can utilize this format to keep up to date while being away from actual services, meetings, activities and watching the online sermon.



Bedford Presbyterian Church
serving Christ since 1844

A Biblically Guided Christian Community,

Loving God, Loving Others,

Serving the World & Growing Disciples

THE APPROACH TO GOD

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And Also with you

Prelude

"How Firm a Foundation"

Harold DeCou

Welcome and Announcements

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- Something More will meet Tuesday at 3pm with Philip Parker leading.
- Join us after service for a Soup & Pie Potluck Luncheon.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

***Call to Worship**

One: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

All: for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.

***Hymn**

"Come, Let Us Praise the Lord"

Hymn 9

***Prayer of Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, for the mounting fears that plague us. We are consumed with thoughts of the unknown, uncertain of the future and terrified of the present. All around us are indications that your creation is tearing itself apart, and we are scared. But, all the fears that envelop us are not reflections of your care and protection. We confess that what we know in our hearts does not always translate into how we live our lives. Help us, Lord, to live lives without fear, trusting only in your strength and mercy. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Through Jesus Christ we have been born again to new life.

***Gloria**

"Glory to the Father"

Bill Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

1 Samuel 10: 17-27

Hymn

"I Sing Praises"

Hymn 660

Sermon

The Man Who Would be King

One of the most well-known authors of the Victorian era was a man by the name of Rudyard Kipling. Remember the story and later Disney movie called *The Jungle Book*? He wrote that as well as a number of other books. One of them was a novella called *The Man Who Would Be King*. It was about two former British soldiers in the late 1800's, disreputable rascals, who went looking

for adventure and ended up pretending to be something other than what they were. Journeying to a distant kingdom in Afghanistan, they chanced upon an opportunity for one of them to take upon himself the role of a divine king. Their deception worked for a little while, but ultimately it ended tragically. The king lost his life at the hands of those who had once worshipped him and his partner returned to India, a broken and impoverished fugitive. The title of this sad tale also identifies another individual, one who can be found within the pages of the Bible. His name was Saul. Like the imposter in Kipling's story, he too was a "man who would be king." But in reality he never quite lived up to that expectation.

So this morning let's take a look at the man named Saul and why he failed to be a king who would rule both wisely and well. First of all, let's examine the passage of Scripture which is the focal point of this message. Samuel, Israel's Judge, had called the people to meet him at Mizpah, the place where they had defeated the Philistines. He reminded them of their past, beginning with their deliverance from slavery in Egypt and how God had continued to protect them from their enemies. Now, however, they were rejecting God's leadership and wanted a king to rule over them, like all the other nations around them. So God was going to grant their request and that's why they had gathered together at Mizpah. Through an elimination process, first the tribe of Benjamin, then the clan of Matri and finally Saul, from the family of Kish, was chosen. He was the one whom God had chosen to be the king. However, no one could find him because he was hiding in the baggage of the encampment. Finally he was recognized and brought before the people.

That's a strange beginning for someone who is to be a king, and it's even stranger because Samuel had already anointed him with the oil of kingship in a private ceremony. The assembly at Mizpah was a public confirmation of what had previously taken place. Furthermore, after he was anointed by Samuel, the Spirit of God came upon Saul in great power and it was a transformational experience, evidenced by his ecstatic behavior. People were asking, "What has happened? Has Saul become like one of the prophets?" You would have thought, therefore, that Saul would have been standing fairly close to Samuel, knowing that he was the new, divinely appointed king, not hiding in the baggage. So why such strange behavior? Was it an expression of humility? No, it was fear. Saul was actually afraid. He did not feel up to the challenge of being a king. When Samuel met Saul for the first time and hinted at what was about to take place, Saul had responded by saying, "But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me" (1

Samuel 9:31)? In other words, Saul did not have a very high opinion of himself. In fact, today we would say that he suffered from an inferiority complex.

Of course, he is not the only one who has suffered from a self-image problem in the pages of the Bible. God seems to have a habit of choosing people who do not think too highly of themselves. For example, Moses begged off when the Lord spoke to him at the burning bush saying, "I'm not a good a speaker. You don't want me!" And remember Gideon, that great warrior of the Lord? When God confronted him, he essentially used the same words that Saul did. He said, "I'm a nobody, the least of the least." There was, however, a big difference between Saul and all of these other divinely appointed leaders. Once chosen, they placed their faith in the Lord and not in themselves. They were willing to dare to do the impossible because they were trusting in the strength and guidance of the Lord. Saul, unfortunately, was never able to follow in their footsteps. He could not escape from himself.

On two separate occasions, his lack of confidence both in himself and in the Lord got the best of him. The first is recorded in 1 Samuel 13:1-15. Saul had gathered his army together at Gilgal, and as in the past the Philistines were assembling another mighty army. Now Samuel had told Saul to wait until his arrival before offering a sacrifice prior to the battle, a plan of action similar to what had taken place at Mizpah years earlier. The problem was Samuel had not shown up at the appointed time. In fact, Saul and the Israelites had waited seven days and still no Samuel. Things were becoming desperate. The Israeli soldiers were scattering and some had even deserted. Taking matters into his own hands, Saul took upon himself the role of a priest and sacrificed the fellowship and the whole burnt offerings. No sooner had he finished than guess who showed up? Samuel arrived and it was not a pleasant meeting. Saul tried to explain away what he had done. He said that he was afraid that the Philistines would attack before he sought the Lord's favor. So he felt compelled to offer the sacrifices. Samuel would hear nothing of it. He said, "You have acted foolishly. 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" (1 Samuel 13:13). So what had Saul done? Simply stated, he had presumed to be that which he was not. He was not a priest. He had no right to offer the sacrifice. He had usurped Samuel's authority. Furthermore it was an indication that he was inclined to usurp anyone's authority, even the Lord's, if it got in way of what he wanted to do.

The second incident, which is recorded in 1 Samuel 15:1-36, was much more serious. Going all the way back to the days of Moses, the Amalekites, a group of nomadic tribes, had been a sworn enemy of the Israelites. They had done everything that they could to harm God's people. So

finally the Lord said that the time had come to end the aggression of these enemies. They were to be utterly and completely destroyed. That was the instruction that Samuel gave to King Saul. King Saul, however, had other ideas. After the battle was over, he created a memorial to himself commemorating the victory. Furthermore, he kept some of the plunder, especially the best cattle and sheep and he even spared the life of Agag, the king of the Amalekites. In a word, Saul wanted to be seen as the great and gracious victor of his enemies.

All of that bravado, however, came crashing down when Samuel arrived. Walking out to greet the aged prophet, Saul boldly declared that he had carried out all of the Lord's instructions. "Why then," Samuel replied, "do I hear the bleating of sheep and the lowing of cattle?" In response Saul desperately tried to make excuses. He said that all of this remaining plunder was being kept for a final sacrificial offering to the Lord. Samuel knew better and responded in wording that is just as compelling today as it was when it was first spoken centuries ago, "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry" (1 Samuel 15:22-23). Saul had attempted to deceive the Lord. He had become a rebellious servant of God, arrogantly assuming that he had the right to disobey the one who had anointed him to be the king of Israel.

What followed is one of the most heartbreaking scenes in the Bible. Pleading to be forgiven, Saul begged Samuel to stay and go with him to worship the Lord. Samuel refused and turned to leave, visibly expressing his displeasure with all that had transpired. Desperate to not be rejected in front of his soldiers, Saul reached out and grabbed Samuel's cloak, tearing off a portion of it. In response Samuel turned and said, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from your grasp today and given it someone else, someone better than you." It was the beginning of the end for the man who would be king.

So what, if anything, does all of this have to do with you and me? What can we learn from this sad account in the ancient history of Israel? Simply put, we should never allow our desire for self-esteem to get the best of us. Years ago a man by the name of Robert S. McGee wrote a book entitled, *The Search for Significance*. Speaking about our desire for self-esteem, he wrote in his introduction, "We continue to seek our security and purpose from worldly sources: personal success, status, beauty, wealth, and the approval of others. These rewards may fulfill us for a short time, but they soon lead us to a sense of urgency to succeed and be approved again." And that is precisely what happened to King Saul. He wanted to be successful in the eyes of others,

no matter the cost. But he is not the only one. There are lots of people like King Saul and sometimes you and I can be tempted to join their ranks.

Let me share a few examples with you: the young executive who slaves away in the office so he can be promoted above everyone else, even though his family never sees him; the housewife who believes her home must be spotless, even though her children feel like they are living in a museum; the teenage girl who continually tries to make herself look more beautiful, even though she is thinking about ending her life because she isn't pretty enough. I could go on, but I wouldn't be honest if I didn't include ministers in this listing. Because sometimes we too can get caught up in this popularity campaign, measuring our worth and value by what others have to say about us, or how fast our church is growing. Yes, there are a lot of King Saul's running around in our world today and it's quite easy for any of us, at any age, even as senior adults, to measure our worth and value by how we look, what we do or used to do and how much we have in the bank.

In particular I am reminded of one gentleman who is now deceased. His name was Howard Hughes. He was born at the beginning of the twentieth century and he rose to fame and fortune at an early age. You may remember him. He was a movie director, although most of the folks who worked with him were glad when he got out of that profession. He was also a real estate developer who in many respects turned Las Vegas into what it has become today, the gambling capital of America. He is probably best noted, however, as an aeronautical genius. He developed the Hughes Aircraft Company and at one point owned Trans World Airlines. In 1939 he received the Congressional Gold Medal for his achievements in aviation. But perhaps more than anything else he is remembered as the man who built the "Spruce Goose." It was an airplane made, for the most part, out of wood. Until recently it was the biggest plane that has ever been built, but sadly it only flew on one occasion, very briefly, with Howard Hughes at the controls. No it didn't crash. It was a giant seaplane that gently lifted off the water and then sat back down about a mile away. As of the year 2020, it still exists, in an aviation and space museum in Oregon.

So why have I shared all of this information with you about Howard Hughes? In spite of all his achievements, in Hollywood, in Las Vegas and in the field of aeronautics and in spite of his desire to be lauded and praised by others, his life came to a rather sad end. He died all alone in the passenger compartment of a Lear jet on a flight from Mexico to the United States. And much the same thing happened to King Saul. In spite of his desire to be esteemed by others, he too died all alone, on a field of battle, as we will discover in next week's sermon.

So what's the message, the truth that we can take home with us today. What did King Saul fail to realize? Simply this. We are valuable, worthy, we are highly esteemed not because of who we

are or what we have done, but because God himself has placed his stamp of approval upon our lives. He did that when Christ died on the cross for our sins. He gave his most precious gift in exchange for our lives, for you and me. For God so loved the world, the world of people like you and me, that he sent his only begotten, his one and only Son, so that whoever believes, trusts in him, shall not perish but have everlasting life. When we realize that our worth and value is a gift from God, not something that we can ever earn, then our lives take on a whole new meaning. We don't have to live for others' approval. All we have to do is to live for the Lord, and when we mess up genuinely ask for His forgiveness. Saul never figured that out. He was the man who would be king, but who never really was.

And speaking of kings, there's another Saul in the Bible who had something to say about kingship. Most of the time we refer to him as Paul. Writing to Timothy about our relationship with Christ, he said, "If we die with him, we shall live with him. If we endure, we shall also reign with him" (2 Timothy 2:11-12). Yes, that's correct. Those who love the Lord and stay close to Him, even when they have to endure hardship will reign with Him. Why, because as Paul also said in this final letter to Timothy, a crown of celestial approval awaits us. He said, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Do you understand what Paul was saying? It's the promise of royalty for each and every one of us who have entrusted our lives into the care of the Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Holy and Anointed One"

John Barnett

Affirmation of Faith

Celtic Creed

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, He died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day He rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present and His kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

****Doxology***

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

"If You Will Trust in God to Guide You"

Hymn 429

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with all joy in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13)

Postlude

"Voluntary"

Samuel Wesley

An All Consuming Jealousy

As we conclude our two part study of the life of King Saul, we will examine how a raging jealousy took complete control of his life. We will discover that an all-consuming jealousy destroys everything it touches, including the one who possesses it. The story of Saul's downward spiral begins in 1 Samuel 18:1 and ends at 1 Samuel 31:13. It covers a span of years and numerous events, some of which will be covered in upcoming sermons on the life of David. This coming Sunday our focus will be on 1 Samuel 18:5-9.

Something More will continue while John is away.
Meeting at 3pm on Tuesdays, with Rev. Philip Parker.

Joys – February 27th

Joy: Lambert- to see Eunice and Jay back in church

Concerns- February 27th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Joey Hedrick- (Kim's husband) cancer

Benton: Kim- sister's neighbor- thyroid cancer

Carolyn- (friend) tests being done, not cancer

Blair: Tonya Blair's friend (Shelly Longnecker) recurring cancer

Troops deployed to South Africa

Steve Arrington- (friend) pneumonia, possibly covid

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Boone: Don Bartz- (brother-in-law) procedure successful

Karl Elleffson- (friend) hospice care

Compter: two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Bob- (friend) Parkinson's

Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure

Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities

Aunt Herta- broke hip, pneumonia

Mike Neighbors-(friend) stroke

Jillian (friend) mother has cancer

Cram: Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Nancy Holmes- (friend) passed away

Gayle Mauser- health issues, still struggling

Roy – more medical testing

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) foot is not healing

Fleming: family dealing with addiction and self-esteem

Their children- having difficulties

Christopher- grandson- cancer

Paul Trautman (friend) severely ill

Foster: Sue & Ron(in laws) found rehab

Ellen- recovering from surgery

Goodman: Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis

Mike Virts- (nephew) may have liver transplant

Ken Nightingale (friend) passed away

Graboyes: Leslie's dad- fell broke hip, recovering from surgery

Grigg: Danny Miller (co-worker) cancer relapse

Harris: Judy- having difficulty swallowing, eating

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn- Kibbey: Nancy & Jeff Milton (friend) both in memory care

Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration

Dick- macular degeneration, taking shots

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches

McManis: those suffering from starvation in foreign countries
Areas hit by tornados especially hospitals

Morris: Robert, (sexton) wife Lisa, health complications, doing better

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Forensic scientists who deal with crime
Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home
Kyle Coble- (cousin) lymphoma
European conflicts, to find solutions

Narwid: Ed- Lynchburg Gen, pneumonia, doing better

Neal: Harold, home, on oxygen
Whitney Janet's (friend) kidney removed

Nichols: JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease

Poindexter: Heather- rheumatoid arthritis
Brett- home, doing well and seizure free

Rutledge: Sherry (friend) covid complications

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)
Scott- (son-in-law) terminal brain cancer

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer
Sonny (son) colon cancer, recovering from surgery

Smith: Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord
Bill Walker- (Sonya's dad) good results from tests

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer
Katy Dubinski-(daughter) friend Michelle, depression
Kaleb- (grandson) pneumonia, possible feeding tube

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Duncan Elliston- (fireman)
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer
Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery

Van Dyke: Donna Mannel (friend) MS
Eleanor- (Nancy's mom) passed away
Nancy- possible cancer, more testing

Winberry: Chris- severe heart issues. Some improvement
Tom & Dee-(brother) COPD, maybe hospice, prayers far family

Prayers for Afghanistan citizens

Prayers for our nation and our President

Prayers for those dealing with loneliness

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Prayers for an end of the coronavirus and for those infected with the virus

Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different

Prayers on ways to help Massanetta, who are hosting 50+ Afghan immigrants

Prayers for those that were affected by the tornados

Prayers for the end of the conflicts in Ukraine and Europe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.
You can mail your pledge or contribution, or you can drop by the office,
Mon-Thurs between 8 am - 4 pm.**

Activities for week of February 27th

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker
9 am Sunday School in fellowship hall
Soup & Pie Potluck Luncheon
Prayer Time following service

Monday: Cubs

Tuesday: 3 pm Something More
6 pm Quilters

Sunday: March 6th
9 am Sunday School in fellowship hall
10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker
Communion
Prayer Time following service

February Birthdays

Richard Overstreet-27
Karen Overstreet -28

March Birthdays

Sonya Smith 2
Sally Cram 3
Eunice Barnes 12
Judy Toney 12
Jagger Creasy 14
Maggie DeWitt 17
Nick DeWitt 18
Ronnie Saunders 24

March Anniversaries

Roy & Sally Cram -19
Richard & Elizabeth Creasy -24



**Soup & Pie Potluck Luncheon
February 27th
Bring your favorite Soup, Pie, dish or
dessert to share after the service
and join us in fellowship.**

Congregational Survey Sunday School

With the membership in our church changing, it's time for our approach to Sunday School to change as well. The Discipleship Committee met recently and decided that

Sunday school should be based more on topics of interest of the congregation than a set curriculum. This survey gives you an opportunity to express your desires. You will also have a chance to let us know if you prefer a different time and/or day of the week for your Christian education. Please take a few moments to fill out this survey. You can turn them in to the office or place them in the basket marked 'Surveys' at either entrance.

We will do our best to provide classes on the topics you list. The preference for time and day of the week will be selected by popular vote.

Thank you

Topics I wish to study:

1. _____
2. _____

- _____ I prefer a Bible study
- _____ Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. is fine with me
- _____ I prefer a different time/day. _____
- _____ I am willing to teach occasionally.

Name _____

TIPS FOR CARING FOR A LOVED ONE



Caregiving is a labor of love. Each situation is unique and there is no one-size-fits-all approach. However, many strategies and resources are available to make life a little easier.

On Saturday, March 19, From 10a.m. -- Noon Bedford Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

Denice Grubbs from the Beard Center on Aging will present a workshop offering resources and tips for successfully navigating caregiving while caring for yourself during the journey.

This event is free and open to the public

Presenter: Denise Scruggs, CDP, CADDCT, is the Director of the Beard Center on Aging at the University of Lynchburg and Vice President of Corporate Training for the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. She has over 30 years of experience in gerontology and dementia care and has been a family caregiver.