



COME TO CHURCH



Creamed comments on the Sunday school lesson, "Israel's First King," I Sam. 10:17-27, for Sunday, April 12.

The lesson today deals with the establishment of the Hebrew monarchy. During the days of Eli and Samuel, national consciousness had been increasing. Samuel was old and his sons were known to be dishonest and took bribes and so were unfit to be king. Furthermore, the people thought a leader was needed, capable of leading them into battle against their enemy, the Philistines. Samuel represented the establishment of a monarchy, preferring a theocracy, meaning a government ruled directly by God through ecclesiastical leaders. The people wanted a king comparable to other nations, and Samuel bowed to their will.

Vs. 17, 18. "And Samuel called the people together unto the Lord to Mizpeh: . . . 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." Samuel called a national assembly, probably consisting of the men who were twenty years of age and over. He pointed out that under his leadership, God had delivered Israel from the Egyptians and all those who had

oppressed them, and inferred that they should have satisfied with this kind of leadership instead of insisting on having a king.

V. 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." A king, who would not be a prophet, would govern by his own decrees, not necessarily in accordance with God's will. From the Israelites' standpoint, God's leadership was unrealistic, since he was an invisible spirit. The people gathered together by tribes and clans.

Vs. 20, 21. "And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken . . . 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." One by one the twelve tribes were brought near and the sacred lot, which was viewed as indicating divine choice, fell first upon the tribe of Benjamin, then upon the clan of Matri, and finally upon Saul, who was probably frightened about the whole procedure and had run away.

Vs. 22, 23. "Therefore they inquired of the Lord further, if the man should yet come thither. And the Lord answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff . . . 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." Saul had been anointed by Samuel previously and knew he was to be the chosen king and was no doubt modest and self-conscious. His unusual size gave him a regal bearing.

V. 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." God had made known his choice of a king to Samuel, yet it was considered desirable that God's will in the matter be publicly manifest, in order that the new king might win the loyalty of the people.

MISSIONARY

Tenth and Dayton Streets

Gerald I. Gerig, pastor

9 a.m., Sunday school hour. If everyone puts forth the same effort they did last Sunday, we will have a wonderful crowd.

10 a.m., morning worship hour. Music by the choir under the direction of Darrell Gerig. Pastor's message is entitled, "The Church Without Love." Junior church and a nursery department for children ages 2 through 11.

6:30 p.m., pre-service prayer. 6:45 p.m., teen-age MYF.

7 p.m., adult fellowship and children's gospel hour.

7:30 p.m., evening gospel hour. Message: "Our God A Consuming Fire."

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., meeting of the church board.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., prayer and praise. 8:30 p.m., choir rehearsal.

Thursday, 1:30 p.m., ladies' prayer meeting. 7:30 p.m., men's missionary fellowship. John Wistner of Grover Hill, O. will show colored film of the expedition "Deepfreeze" to the South Pole.

Saturday, 7 p.m., men's prayer meeting.

The superiority of some men is merely local. They are great because their associates are little. Johnson.

Man's rank is his power to uplift.—MacDonald.

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

V. Rev. Msgr. Schmidt, Pastor

Sunday Masses

6 a.m.

7:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses

6 a.m.

7:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

Mercer Avenue at Five Points

Harold J. Bond, Minister

9:15 a.m. Sunday School classes

9:15 a.m. church school

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

7:30 p.m. Adult Education

7:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting

7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

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