

Introduction: the Lord's King

- What a strange position Saul was in:
 - rejected as king by the Lord...
 - yet he was still king as far as the people were concerned!
 - and it would seem Saul still regarded himself as king
- It wasn't a case of 'The king is dead. Long live the king!':
 - Saul continued to rule Israel for many more years
- *Meanwhile, another was anointed king - the Lord's choice*

Story!

- Wonderfully vivid story!
 - telling it with the kids in the schools last year...
- Theme running through here is **INSIDE** or **OUTSIDE**

Comfort:

- God doesn't look at outward skill or ability, not at how well we speak in public, or how intelligent we are...
- **mustn't judge ourselves by external criteria**

Challenge:

- God doesn't look at outward skill or ability, not at how well we speak in public, or how intelligent we are...
- **mustn't judge others by external criteria**

God's Voice:

- Are we alert to God's voice?
- Father Mychal Judge (Father Mike); NY city fire-dept chaplain, killed during 9/11:
 - this prayer, which he seemed, was apparently found on his desk after he died - probably something he'd penned himself...
 - **Lord, take me where you want me to go;**
Let me meet who you want me to meet;
Tell me what you want me to say
And keep me out of your way.

Conclusion

- Samuel was alert to God's voice and responsive to his instructions - **are we?**
- Samuel was challenged to look for the heart and not the outside when judging other people - **are we?**
- From his youth, David would have been challenged to remember that God had chosen him, not because of his outward prowess or ability, but for the heart - **do we remember?**