

**Title:**

When My Preference Becomes My Prison

**Text:**

1 Samuel 16:1 NIV

**Target:**

When we cling to our personal preferences over God's promises, we find ourselves stuck in places we were never meant to stay.

Saul is a representation of people's preferences, not God's promise.

- *But the people refused to listen to Samuel's warning. "Even so, we still want a king," they said. and the Lord replied, "Do as they say, and give them a king." Then Samuel agreed and sent the people home. -1 Samuel 8:19,22 NRSV*

**If I am going to break free from the prison of preference, I must...**

1. Be honest about the amount of **TIME** spent in my season of grief.
  - It's not the POSTURE of mourning that God is dealing with; It's the PERIOD of mourning that He is dealing with
    - "How long..." -1 Samuel 16:1 NIV
  - Mourning is human. Mourning too long is childish.
    - Scripture calls us to lament, to feel, and to allow grief and sorrow to have their place.
2. Remember what God **TOLD** me
  - "I have rejected him from being king." -1 Samuel 16:1 NIV
  - When things don't go our way, we tend to blame Satan for things that God is doing in our lives.
  - "...Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." -Matthew 4:4 NIV
3. Consistently **TURN** towards God, not my past.

- *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us -Hebrews 12:1 ESV.*
- *'Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king." -1 Samuel 16:1NLT*
- *Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.  
- Ecclesiastes 7:10*
- *"The 'good old days' are the combination of a bad memory and a good imagination" (Warren Wiersbe)*

**Take Away:** In Christ, every ending is the beginning of something better.