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night joy

OF

SET FOR THE THRONE

Extracts of sermon by Reverend Fola Achudume at HOP Peckham, January 2009

When mercy and favour comes, a miracle is inevitable. David was relegated to the background in his family, highly irrelevant, a shepherd boy. While his brothers were being measured for great works, and carrying on with dignity in the city, soldiers, men of valour, he was busy taking care of sheep in the bush. However God was only training David for the throne. It was while he was doing what he was doing that he killed a Lion, likewise he killed a bear. These experiences prepared David to be able to kill Goliath much later. David was favoured by God, though he did not even know it then as all he could hear day and night was the bleating of sheep.

When a man is favoured, it means there is a covenant of God with the man; however when a man is out of favour, he may die before his time, he may fall into traps and enemies may succeed in their cruel plans against the person. When a man is not favoured, his miracles are postponed and poverty may be the water of such a person. However, a favoured man attracts wealth and attention. A man in favour is precious in the sight of men, and God. When David died, his son Solomon took over and

reigned in his stead enjoying part of the favour of his father.

However, unlike David, God took away mercy from Saul. 2 Samuel 16:1 *"The Lord said to Samuel, How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as King over Israel..."* God replaced Saul while he was still alive. God rejected him and took away his mercy from Saul. Compare this to God promising never to withdraw his mercy from David, 1Chronicles 17:13 *"I will be his father and he shall be my son; and I will not take my mercy away from him as I took it from him that was before thee"*.

What did Saul do wrong then that made him suddenly unfit for the throne?

He was in a hurry. In 1 Samuel 13, Saul was instructed by the man of God to wait seven days for him to come and make a sacrifice in preparation for war, but because Samuel was delayed a little bit, and his soldiers were becoming restless, Saul went ahead and performed the duty of a priest, but Samuel arrived as he finished and rebuked him. Never be in a hurry, wait for God. Jesus Christ waited for four days before going to raise Lazarus.

Saul listened to the people and did not obey God completely. God told him to destroy the Amalekites completely; including their livestock. Saul however instead of doing that, kept some of the livestock because the people told him so, on the pretext that they will use them to make sacrifice to God. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

These two sins were the most major sins of Saul, yet God did not show him mercy, because he had run out of favour with God. A man out of favour may die in battle. The state of your heart will determine if you will receive mercy from God or not. The secret of David was his heart, a humble and contrite spirit. God was so much in love with him that even when he sinned God allowed him to choose his own punishment. But remember, David refused to kill Saul when he had the opportunity despite the fact that Saul was after his life, he respected the anointing of God upon his head even though God had rejected Saul. From today seek a contrite spirit and a broken heart, seek the mercy of God, this is the only way to the throne.

"Obedience is better than sacrifice"