

Scriptures June 9, 2024

Second reading

1 Samuel 8:4-11 (NRSV)

⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, ‘You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.’ ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to govern us.’ Samuel prayed to the LORD, ⁷ and the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ⁸ Just as they have done to me,^[a] from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. ⁹ Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.’

¹⁰ So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said, ‘These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots;

1 Samuel 8:16-20 (NRSV)

¹⁶ He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle^[a] and donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸ And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.’

Israel’s Request for a King Granted

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, ‘No! but we are determined to have a king over us, ²⁰ so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.’

1 Samuel 11:14-15 (NRSV)

¹⁴ Samuel said to the people, 'Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.' ¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the LORD, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.

Third Reading

Mark 3:20-35 (NRSV)

²⁰ and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' ²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' ²³ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸ 'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'— ³⁰ for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

The True Kindred of Jesus

³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters^[a] are outside, asking for you.' ³³ And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' ³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'