

1 Samuel 9:1-10:16 – Saul, The King People Want

March 13, 2022

1. Meet Saul

There was a man... 1 Samuel 9:1a (ESV)

A. Saul's Pedigree

*There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth.
1 Samuel 9:1 (ESV)*

B. Saul's Person

And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. 1 Samuel 9:2 (ESV)

2. God changes our plans to move us to where He wants us to be for the work He has given us to do.

Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." 1 Samuel 9:3 (ESV)

And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them. 1 Samuel 9:4 (ESV)

When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us go back, lest my father cease to care about the donkeys and become anxious about us." 1 Samuel 9:5 (ESV)

- **A person may look like a good leader but that doesn't mean they have the heart of a good leader. It is impossible to make an accurate judgment of someone by first impressions.**

But he said to him, "Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go." 1 Samuel 9:6 (ESV)

Then Saul said to his servant, "But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?" 1 Samuel 9:7 (ESV)

The servant answered Saul again, "Here, I have with me a quarter of a shekel of silver, and I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way." 1 Samuel 9:8 (ESV)

(Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, "Come, let us go to the seer," for today's "prophet" was formerly called a seer.) 1 Samuel 9:9 (ESV)

And Saul said to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was. 1 Samuel 9:10 (ESV)

3. Chance encounters are God's perfect timing.

As they went up the hill to the city, they met young women coming out to draw water and said to them, "Is the seer here?" 1 Samuel 9:11 (ESV)

They answered, "He is; behold, he is just ahead of you. Hurry. He has come just now to the city, because the people have a sacrifice today on the high place. 1 Samuel 9:12 (ESV)

As soon as you enter the city you will find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat till he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately." 1 Samuel 9:13 (ESV)

So they went up to the city. As they were entering the city, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the high place. 1 Samuel 9:14 (ESV)

4. Flashback To The Day Before

Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed to Samuel: "Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me."

1 Samuel 9:15–16 (ESV)

- God is large and in charge of our life. Nothing in our lives, even the littlest details, happens by chance.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (ESV)

- God has a heart of compassion for His people that are suffering.

5. Saul was the guest of honor at a dinner he didn't expect.

When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, "Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people." 1 Samuel 9:17 (ESV)

Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, "Tell me where is the house of the seer?" 1 Samuel 9:18 (ESV)

Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind. As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father's house?" 1 Samuel 9:19–20 (ESV)

Saul answered, "Am I not a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?" 1 Samuel 9:21 (ESV)

Then Samuel took Saul and his young man and brought them into the hall and gave them a place at the head of those who had been invited, who were about thirty persons. 1 Samuel 9:22 (ESV)

And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion I gave you, of which I said to you, 'Put it aside.' " So the cook took up the leg and what was on it and set them before Saul. And Samuel said, "See, what was kept is set before you. Eat, because it was kept for you until the hour appointed, that you might eat with the guests." So Saul ate with Samuel that day. 1 Samuel 9:23–24 (ESV)

And when they came down from the high place into the city, a bed was spread for Saul on the roof, and he lay down to sleep. 1 Samuel 9:25 (ESV)

Then at the break of dawn Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Up, that I may send you on your way." So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street. 1 Samuel 9:26 (ESV)

As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to pass on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God." 1 Samuel 9:27 (ESV)

6. Samuel anointed Saul as leader over the people.

Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his heritage. 1 Samuel 10:1 (ESV)

7. God confirmed His selection of Saul with three signs.

When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, 'The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"' 1 Samuel 10:2 (ESV)

Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand. 1 Samuel 10:3–4 (ESV)

After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. 1 Samuel 10:5–6 (ESV)

- **God gives us the gifts we need to accomplish the work He gives us to do.**

Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. 1 Samuel 10:7 (ESV)

Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do." 1 Samuel 10:8 (ESV)

8. What did Saul do with God's choice of him and the gifts given to him?

When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day. 1 Samuel 10:9 (ESV)

When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" 1 Samuel 10:10–11 (ESV)

And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" 1 Samuel 10:12 (ESV)

When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place. Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel." 1 Samuel 10:13–14 (ESV)

And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." And Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything.

1 Samuel 10:15–16 (ESV)

Application

- God is in control over every detail of our life. Everything in our life will be used for God's glory and His good purposes. (Romans 8:28)
- Saul was gifted by God and he had some kind of supernatural experience from God, but was he born again?

And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. Ezekiel 36:27 (ESV)

Whatever happened to Saul, it doesn't appear that his heart was not changed to the point where he had a desire to repent and obey God's words. That is evidence of a saving relationship with God.

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.** On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, **did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?**' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" Matthew 7:21–23 (ESV)*

Life Group Questions

1. What did you learn in this week's lesson that you did not know? What questions do you have?
2. Where in the Bible do we see God's sovereign hand guiding the free acts of people? **For examples see: Proverbs 21:1, Isaiah 46:9-11, Acts 2:23, Genesis 50:20, Genesis 45:7-8.**
3. Does God's sovereign control of all things remove us from responsibility for our choices?
4. How has God's sovereign guidance worked to bring blessings into your life?
5. If God works out his purposes through circumstances, how do we know if an opportunity is God's will for us or just a distraction?
6. How was King Saul like King Jesus? How was King Saul different from King Jesus?
7. From what we know about Saul, do you think he was in a saving relationship with God? Why or why not?