

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 23RD-24TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

LOSING & FINDING (1 SAMUEL 9:1-17)

LIKE A CINEMATIC SCENE

At the beginning of chapter nine, we meet Kish, a man of high standing who has "an impressive" son named Saul. This transition is like a movie scene that picks up the storyline from a completely different location.

- In this interesting shift, we further see that God's ways are very different from man's.

"ONE DAY THE DONKEYS...WANDERED OFF"

Saul and a servant were sent out to find Kish's donkeys. After searching for a long period of time, Saul was about to give up when his servant suggested they talk to the "man of God."

- **In times of confusion, we need God, but we also need people in our lives to point us to the things of God.**

FINDING THE "SEER"

Later called prophets, seers had the gift of foresight and knowing God's will. The Jews knew to honor the seer with a gift that showed gratitude.

- **We're to honor all people, but reverence should be shown to those called into authoritative positions. God honors those who understand honor (1Peter 2:17).**

GOD'S TIMING

After finding out Sam would be blessing a sacrifice at the "high place," Saul and his servant are met by Sam on the way.

- This was no accident. Sam had been told the day before exactly how things would unfold. **To know God's plan, we must be living righteously and listening to Him.**

SOMETIMES, LOSS LEADS TO GAIN

God told Sam that He had "seen the affliction of [His] people, for their cry [had] come to ["Him]." This shows us that not all of the Israelites were selfish and disconnected from God.

- We also learn that **in times of loss, God will not only be there, but will grow us through the struggle if we just trust Him.**

"HE WILL GOVERN MY PEOPLE"

The word *govern* is used 46 times in the Bible and can also mean *to restrain*. God's use of this verb foreshadows the protection Saul would provide from enemies but also the "holding back" of God's blessings because of his evil.

- **God will sometimes use evil people to accomplish His will for His people's sake.**

STAYING AWHILE (1 SAMUEL 9:18-27)

"I AM THE SEER"

By God's providence, Saul asked Sam if he knew who the seer was. After identifying who he was, Sam offered Saul a personal invitation to the sacrificial meal, told him where the lost donkeys were, and said that Saul was what "all Israel desire[d]," hinting at Saul's significant destiny.

"ALL ISRAEL DESIRE[S]"

Here, we have another interesting play on words. *Desire* is used as a positive and negative in the Bible. Here, the word means *to want*, but can also mean *a sinful craving*.

- The Israelites **wanted security and prosperity, but they wanted it by ungodly and selfish means.**

LET'S TAKE THIS INTO OUR LIVES

The desires for love, security, value, etc., are normal human desires, but if we look for these things through ungodly avenues, our desires become sinful cravings that destroy us and those around us.

- We avoid this trap through the truth of the Word, prayer, listening, and obedience.

A NOBODY BECOMING A SOMEBODY

Saul was from an insignificant group, but was honored at the "solemn event." After the event, Sam talked to Saul, more than likely revealing all of the connections God had made for this situation to take place.

- Saul is one of many testimonies that show **God does big things with "insignificant people."**

THE FIRST KING (1 SAMUEL 10:1-16)

A KING IS OFFICIALLY CHOSEN

After revealing God's plan, Sam poured oil over Saul to signify that he was chosen to be king of Israel. The oil contained **5 ingredients that acted as a metaphor for leadership.**

- Olive oil (the covering of **God's Spirit**), myrrh (**submission to God**), cinnamon (**integrity**), calamus (**humility**), and cassia (**purity**).

IT ALL STILL GOES BACK TO GOD

The word *messiah* comes from a verb *mashach*, which means *anoint*. This means the king was God's anointed one, and all power still goes back to God.

- **When we are granted any level of authority, it is by God's grace, and we must steward it honorably.**

GOD WILL CONFIRM OUR CALLING

Sam told Saul there would be a series of signs that would confirm God's call on his life: What was lost was found (donkeys), provision (the gifts), confirmation from prophets, and an infilling of God's Spirit.

- **We see similar signs in our journey IF we're in tune with God and paying attention!**

THE HEART CHANGE CAME BEFORE THE SIGNS

Notice that God changed Saul's heart before he saw the signs of his calling on his journey.

If we're to see God move, we must position our hearts to a place of submission and trust in God and His ways!

- This usually requires godly influence! **Do we position ourselves to see change?**

"WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE SON OF KISH?"

When people who knew Saul with his humble upbringing and lack of pedigree prophesying (speaking God's will) with the spiritual leaders of Israel, they were amazed at the transformation.

- **God doesn't care about pasts or pedigrees. If we humble ourselves to Him, He will radically change us!**

IT BEGINS BY SEARCHING

God's will and the transformation of one who pursues Him begins with a search. Saul wasn't looking to be king, but in **searching, being surrounded by wise people, listening to truth, and obedience**, Saul was touched by God.

- **Are we on a similar journey? If not, we will not experience God's touch.**

COINCIDENCES?

- We see in Saul's life that nothing was coincidental. **God had a plan and even used minute details to accomplish it.**
- We must be in prayer and keep our eyes open for what God may be doing around us. **It is in obedience to God that we have "ears to hear" (Revelation 1-3) and "eyes to see" (Matthew 13).**

ARE WE SEEKING WISELY?

- We must be intentionally **searching** for truth.
- **Do we have a desire for truth, or, like many of the Israelites in Sam's time, are we sinfully craving for selfish things?**
- If we're on a journey for answers, are we wise about who influences us? **What is the character of our company (1 Corinthians 15:33)?**

TRANSFORMATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

- If we are **humble**, God will transform and use us for His Kingdom regardless of our past mistakes or lack of pedigree.
- We must also be **responsible** with the blessings and authority God may give us. Regardless of our success, we must remember it ultimately belongs to Him.
- **Search:** We must always be looking for truth regardless of the stage we are in.
- **Surround:** We must have God-honoring people in our lives to help us.
- **Listen:** We must minimize distractions and live in God's wisdom and discernment.
- **Obey:** Respond to the written Word and our God-given personal convictions.