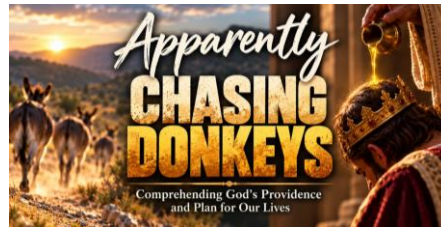


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: 1 Samuel 9:1-27 – the story of the selection of Israel’s first king

Today’s Message:

**“Apparently
Chasing Donkeys”**



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we came to a pivotal chapter in 1st Samuel – a turning point in Israel’s history. After years of living under God’s direct rule through judges and prophets, Israel desired a king to be like the world. Today, we will see the beginning of the story of Israel’s first king. And what a strange story it is! God had told Samuel that He was going to bring to him the king that God had chosen to be Israel’s first in response to their desire to be like the world. Saul would be that man. But as we will see today, he had no idea what was going on. He was just apparently chasing donkeys! Sometimes in your life, it seems like you are stuck in the middle of mundane and valueless drama. It is during our normal days and years that God often leads us into His epic plan and purpose for our life. This is God’s message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text 1 Samuel 9:1-27

A. God is working 9:1-5

1. God’s Providence (working) often begins with **ORDINARY** circumstances.

God’s Providence

Providence is God’s continual working and governing of circumstances, people, and events to accomplish His purposes.

“Apparently”

unrelated things:

Lost donkeys
His dad’s instructions
Saul’s 3-day search
Saul’s desire to quit
The servant’s idea
The servant’s money
The young maidens
The timing of arrival
Samuel’s presence
God’s word to Samuel

1Samuel 9:2 – ... name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly...

1Samuel 9:3-4 – ... were lost... found them not... were not... found them not.

1Samuel 9:5 – And when they were come to the land of Zuph... let us return...

“A choice young man... goodly... goodlier” – Saul was a choice, handsome, young man !

“From his shoulders and upward... higher” – we say, “He is the man!” ... by appearance!

“Come to the land of Zuph” – a coincidence?!? It is Samuel’s G-G-G- Grandpa’s land!

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- **Moses** **Ex 2-3** An ordinary sheep day – God calls him to be a deliverer!
- **Ruth** **Ruth 2:3** Ruth is thinking food – *hap* – God connects her to David!
- **Esther** **Esther 4:14** A young lady now queen – *such a time* – to save Israel!

KEY TRUTHS

- God uses **ordinary** responsibilities to lead us to Him – job, family, work, chores...
- God often uses **inconveniences** to lead us to His plan – what are your DONKEYS?
- You must be faithful to God **before understanding** all the details of His plan.

Personal Application

Consider how God may be leading you through the “donkeys” you are apparently chasing. Saul did not know the donkeys were leading him to Samuel... Samuel was going to lead him to an anointing as king... the anointing was going to lead him to Israel’s throne.

B. God is leading 9:6-19

2. Saul walked into a **MEETING** that God had already scheduled. (*A divine appointment!*)

1Samuel 9:6 – ... Behold NOW, **there is in this city a man of God...**

1Samuel 9:7-8 – ... **what shall we bring...** I have... the fourth part of a shekel...

1Samuel 9:9-14 – ... young maidens... He is; **behold, he is before you: make haste...**

1Samuel 9:15-17 – ... told... To morrow about this time **I WILL SEND THEE a man...**

1Samuel 9:18 – ... Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is.

1Samuel 9:19 – And Samuel answered Saul... **I am the seer...**

“There is **in this city** a man of God” – the city where Samuel lived – Ramah! Wow!

“LORD had told Samuel... To morrow” – God made the appointment the day before!

“Behold the man whom I spake to thee of!” – God revealed His plan to Samuel clearly!

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- **Joseph Gen 50:20** Evil intent; God's hand – he could look back and see it!
- **Abraham Gen 24** Servant prays for Isaac's wife; Rebekah appears – wow!
- **Philip Acts 8:26+** God says go; he did – God already provided the meeting!

KEY TRUTHS

- You do not need to understand everything God is doing in your life.
- You should not confuse lack of understanding with lack of God's direction.
- Let the Holy Spirit direct you as you obey the Bible. **Proverbs 16:9**

C. God is so good 9:20-27

3. Saul realized that God was accomplishing **MORE** than he had realized!

1Samuel 9:20 – ... **as for thine asses that were lost three days ago... they are found.**

1Samuel 9:21 – ... Am not I am Benjamite... wherefore then **speakest thou so to me?**

1Samuel 9:22 – ... took Saul and his servant... **made them sit in the chiefest place...**

1Samuel 9:23-24 – ... **Behold that which is left!** set it before thee, and eat...

1Samuel 9:25-27 – ... as they were going ... **that I may shew thee the word of God.**

“As for the asses... **they are found**” – SET NOT THY MIND ON THEM! God knew all along!

“Speakest thou **so to me**” – what a humbling realization; God cares for + wants you!

“Made them sit in **the chiefest place**” – the chiefest seats are open for them – **30 others!**

“**Behold** that which is left!” – the best portion was saved for them! God is so good to us!

“That I may shew thee **the word of God**” – all this to reveal His plan through His words!

KEY TRUTHS

- Do not measure the **significance** of your life by **TODAY's** circumstances.
- Do not abandon God's journey because the purpose is not obvious to you now.
- Trust God with the parts of your life that you cannot connect to His purposes.

God's Providence

The Bible describes a God that intervenes in His world to accomplish His plans and purposes.

He intervenes in your life to accomplish the same! Amen.

Important Note

God will never lead you to disobey or violate the word of God to accomplish His will and plan for your life.

Important Note

The entire reason Saul was there had been resolved! The donkeys were **never** the most important thing that happened that day.

God's Providence

Saul thought he was pursuing donkeys!
In reality...
God was pursuing Saul!

Practical Application

There is a warning from Saul's life that we must consider...

Being brought into God's purpose does not eliminate our responsibility to obey God.

Yet the great life application is – we only get one life, and it is a vapor. **James 4:14; Psalm 90:12**