

Series: 1 Samuel: The Chosen King VIII

Text: 1 Samuel 9:1-10:16

HI: The Lord sends the leader who will accomplish His purpose.

Title: *Losing Donkeys, Finding Kings*

Hook: Circuitous providence

Date: 3.5.23

Purpose: To call the listener to trust in the Lord, who responds to the cries of his people.

FCF: Like Israel, we long for a leader who will save us. Israel got the anointed leader they desired, but Saul fell short of God's calling. In contrast to Saul, God has provided the true Messiah, Jesus, who accomplishes God's redemptive purposes.

COR: This story merges the ordained and ordinary, showing how God is at work in ways we fail to see to bring about his purposes. It is hard to imagine, in a day like ours, how God is working, yet this story reveals how the Lord provides for his people in ways we would never see coming.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Way of Contrast: Saul // Jesus

Apologetic: This story strikes at the heart of the idea that our world and our very lives are simply a series of random happenings through the machinations of an impersonal universe. Contra this perspective, we see a providential God who hears the cries of his people and responds with an answer to their request.

Form: Inductive

Call to Worship: Psalm 138:8

Benediction: Ephesians 5:1-2

Outline:

I. The Lord answers the people's request through a curious providence. (9:1-27)

A. Saul is the leader Israel wants. (1-21)

B. The Lord is the sovereign Israel needs. (1-27)

II. The Lord proves faithful even when leaders are unreliable. (10:1-16)

A. The Lord's promises echo as his word is confirmed. (1-8)

B. Saul's character is revealed in the kingdom concealed. (9-16)

Main Idea:

Subject: The providential appointing and secret anointing of Israel's first king

Complement: God providentially provided Saul, the king Israel asked for, and confirmed his choice through His word and Spirit.

Exegetical Idea: God providentially appointed Saul as the answer to Israel's request for a king, and he confirmed his choice through His word and Spirit.

Theological Idea: God provides the leader His people need to accomplish His redemptive purposes in and through them.

Homiletical Idea: The Lord sends the leader who will accomplish His purpose.

Introduction:

"circuitous providence."

Circuitous: "having a circular or winding course" "not being direct"

Providence: God's plan and interaction with his creation

Ephesians 1:11: "him who works *all things* according to the counsel of his will,"

READ 1 Samuel 9:1-27

9 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. ²And 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.

³Now 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."

⁴And 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.

⁵When 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." ⁶But 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.”⁷ 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?”⁸ 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.”

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

¹¹ 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?”¹² 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.”¹³ 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.”¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel:

¹⁶ “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.”¹⁷ 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.”¹⁸ Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, “Tell me where is the house of the seer?”¹⁹ 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.”²⁰ 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?”²¹ 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?”

²² 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. ²³ And Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the portion I gave you, of which I said to you, ‘Put it aside.’ ” ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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.

²⁷ 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.”

I. The Lord answers the people’s request through a curious providence. (9:1-27)

Saul = “Asked for”

Young man = “chosen one”

v. 16: “Tomorrow about this time *I will send* to you a man from Benjamin”

Deut 7:6 “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Eph 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

READ 1 Samuel 10:1-16

10 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. ²When 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?" ' ³Then 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. ⁴And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand. ⁵After 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. ⁶Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. ⁷Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day. ¹⁰When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. ¹¹And 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?" ¹²And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" ¹³When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place. ¹⁴Saul'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." ¹⁵And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." ¹⁶And 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.

HI: The Lord sends the leader who will accomplish His purpose.

Heritage: = possession, inheritance

Deut 4:20: But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

2 Instructions: 1) "Do what your hand finds to do" 2) "Go before me to Gilgal"

HI: The Lord sends the leader who will accomplish His purpose.

PRV: Isaiah 53:2b-3

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Luke 4:18-19:

18 ^y"The Spirit of the Lord ^zis upon me,
because he has anointed me
to ^aproclaim good news to the poor.
^bHe has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and ^crecovering of sight to the blind,
^dto set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19 ^eto proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Charles Spurgeon:

"His providence descends to the minute particles of dust in the summer gale; he numbers the gnats in the sunshine, and the fishes in the sea. While it certainly doth control the massive orbs that shine in heaven, it doth not blush to deal with the drop that trickleth from the eye."

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