

# 1 Samuel 9: Omniscience and Priorities

## Chapter 8 Review

- Each of us is **responsible for our own choices**
- Israel **rejects Samuels sons** to rule as judges
- **Israel's Claim:** Samuel is **too old** and his sons are **too evil**
- **Reality:** Israel demands a king to be like other nations
- God tells Samuel to give them what they want
- **Tell them the consequences** of rejecting God's rule...God was their King!
- Israel wants what they want and they **make a bad choice**
- Samuel tells them **they will have a king**...and to go home
- **Summary:** God's Word is clear concerning the consequences of bad choices...**We will reap what we sow**...now or **later**
- **Deferred Sentence:** The consequences of Israels choice is postponed until the fourth king, **Rehoboam**
- God is about to give Israel their **first king**...King Saul

## 1 Samuel Chapter 9 (Don't get lost looking for donkeys)

1Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was **Kish** the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah, the son of a Benjamite, a **mighty man of valor**. 2He had a son whose name was Saul, a **choice** and **handsome man**, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up **he was taller than any of the people**.

- **Kish:** Father of Saul and a **mighty man of valor** (mighty man of power: possibly a land owner and a leader in a time of war)
- **Saul** was a head taller than any other guy in Israel
- Not what it takes to be a great Godly leader

3Now the **donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost**. So Kish said to his son Saul, "Take now with you one of the servants, and arise, go

**search for the donkeys."** 4He passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. Then they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find them. 5When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, and let us return, or else my father will **cease to be concerned about the donkeys and will become anxious for us."**

- Saul's dad **lost his donkeys**
- Saul and the servant looked for a long time in a lot of places
- **Saul did not want his dad to worry** about them (good kid)
- Sometimes when what we are doing **is not working out...**God is **trying to get our attention**
- **Saul's servant** is first to look to God for answers. Saul will continue to struggle with looking to God for guidance (character revealed)

6He [servant] said to him, "Behold now, **there is a man of God** in this city, and the man is held in honor; all that he says surely comes true. Now let us go there, **perhaps he can tell us about our journey on which we have set out."**

- **Behold there is a man...**why didn't Saul know or recognize this?
- The servant trusted that God would help them **even in this small things**

**Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

- Saul was **anxious** about the donkeys, being late, and being lost
- His servant **wanted to hear from God** and knew that **no request was too small**
- He wanted to hear from Samuel...the seer (long hair, beard)

7Then Saul said to his servant, "But behold, if we go, **what shall we bring the man?** For the bread is gone from our sack and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?" 8The servant answered Saul again and said, "**Behold, I have in my hand a fourth of a shekel of silver;** I will give it to the man of God and he will tell us our way." 9(Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God,

he used to say, "Come, and let us go to the seer"; for he who is called a prophet now was formerly called a seer.) 10Then Saul said to his servant, "**Well said; come, let us go.**"

- "Behold I have a fourth of a shekel..." **Well said!**
- Who was rich? Saul or the servant?

So they went to the city where the man of God was. 11As they went up the slope to the city, they found young women going out to draw water and said to them, "**Is the seer here?**" 12They answered them and said, "He is; see, he is ahead of you. Hurry now, for he has come into the city today, for the people have a sacrifice on the **high place** today. 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 until he comes, because **he must bless the sacrifice**; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now therefore, go up for you will find him at once." 14So they went up to the city. As they came into the city, behold, Samuel was coming out toward them to go up to the **high place**.

- Remember for later; The **sacrifice is Samuel's responsibility**
- **High place:** Place of Canaanite religious practice...why there?
- The arc is gone (Eleazar's house)
- The priestly family is gone (Ely and his sons are dead)
- They *are* worshipping the true God there...**for now**

15Now a day before Saul's coming, the **LORD had revealed this to Samuel** saying, 16"About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and **you shall anoint him to be prince** over My people Israel; and he will deliver My people from the hand of the Philistines **For I have regarded My people, because their cry has come to Me.**"

- The Lord **revealed His plan** to Samuel...to anoint Saul as King
- Regard...because of their cry: **Mercy and a deferred sentence**
- They eventually will reap what they sow

17When Samuel saw Saul, **the LORD said** to him, "Behold, **the man of whom I spoke to you!** This one shall rule over My people."

18Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, "Please tell me where the seer's house is." 19Samuel answered Saul and said, "**I am the seer.** Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today; and in the morning I will let you go, and will tell you all that is on your mind. 20"**As for your donkeys** which 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 household?"

- **...do not set your mind...**Priorities: Gods plan

**Colossians 3:1** Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- Christians are called to think differently
- Discern spiritually
- To walk by faith and not by sight
- To set are mind on things above and not to get caught up with the things of this world

**Romans 12:2** And do not be **conformed** to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your **mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Stop worrying about donkeys and start thinking about God's plan
- We are to seek God and He will deal with the donkeys

**Matthew 6 :25** (read) "For this reason I say to you, **do not be worried about your life**, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26"Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? 27"And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? 28"And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 30"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! 31"Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32"For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33"**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** 34"**So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.** Each day has enough trouble of its own.

21Saul replied, "Am I not a **Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes** of Israel, and my family **the least of all the families** of the tribe of Benjamin? **Why then do you speak to me in this way?"**

- Saul was not open to what God could do
- Humble or falsely humble?

22Then Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall and **gave them a place at the head of those who were invited**, who were about thirty men. 23Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion that I **gave** you, concerning which I **said** to you, "Set it aside." 24Then the cook took up the leg with what was on it and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, "Here is what has been reserved! Set it before you and eat, because **it has been kept** for you until the appointed time, since I said I have invited the people." So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

- **Past tense:** God sees the whole parade as we watch a little at a time

**John 1:45** (Read) Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote-- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" 48Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, **"Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."** 49Nathanael answered Him, **"Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."** 50Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

- God knows everything...Everything!
- Our response to a loving God who knows our needs is praise: **You are the Son of God!**
- He will watch out for us

**2 Kings 6:8** (Read) Now the king of Aram was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, "In such and such a place

shall be my camp." 9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Arameans are coming down there." 10The king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice. 11Now the heart of the king of Aram was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?" 12One of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but **Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.**" 13So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." 14He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "**Alas, my master! What shall we do?**" 16So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, **open his eyes that he may see** " And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was **full of horses and chariots of fire** all around Elisha.

- What shall we do?
- Open our spiritual eyes...God's Got it under control

**Psalm 34:7** The angel of the LORD **encamps** around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

**1 Samuel 9:25** When they came down from the high place into the city, Samuel spoke with Saul **on the roof**. 26And **they arose early**; and at daybreak Samuel called to Saul on the roof, saying, "**Get up, that I may send you** away."

- They arose together but Saul went back to sleep
- Get up that I may send you (Samuel called out to Saul)
- God want us to get up...wake up...**be alert** to where He wants to send us

(Read)

**1 Peter 1:13** Therefore, prepare **your minds for action**, keep **sober** in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 4:7** The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound

judgment and **sober** spirit for the **purpose of prayer**.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be of **sober** spirit, **be on the alert** your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- **Why is Peter so big on staying alert...**remember when Jesus was about to go to the cross and had asked the boys to pray?

**Matthew 26:40** And He came to the disciples and found them **sleeping**, and **said to Peter**, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?..." Peter remembered.

**1 Samuel 9:26** So Saul arose, and both **he and Samuel went out into the street**. <sup>27</sup>As they were going down to the edge of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Say to the servant that he might go ahead of us and pass on, but you **remain standing now, that I may proclaim the word of God to you.**"

- I want to speak to you alone (alone time)
- **Many times** God has a Word just for us alone
- **Remain standing:** Always assessing our relationship with Jesus
- Are we open to hearing from God?
- Is our heart on earthly things

**2 Timothy 2:4** No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

- As Christian soldiers engaged in the War of the Worlds, we are to let the petty stuff role off and **be ready for God to reveal our mission to us!**...easier said than done, yet possible with God

## Conclusion:

- **God knows everything** including what we are going through
- We need to **trust God with everything** (inc. donkeys)
- **When we do** He will reveal His plan to us. Saul left the donkeys to God and was about to be made King.
- **Unless we remove** the petty things we will not hear from the seer...get a message from God. What petty things are confusing your world?
- **We must have alone** time with God
- We must **"remain standing"** (being alert) not bending to the whims of the world

- Listen **for God**...Listen **to God**
- He knows what he wants to do with us...**and it is good**

**Jeremiah 29:11** (Read)

'For I **know** the **plans** that I have for you,' declares the LORD, '**plans** for welfare and not for calamity to give you a **future and a hope**.'

- **Don't get lost looking for donkeys!**
- God knows **all** the things that are going on in your life.
- **Do you know your need for God?**