

that happening next Sunday. All right,  
Well, this week. You're going to continue  
through our series in the Old Testament.  
We are looking again at some of the  
lesser known characters in scripture. We  
have titled this series Old Testament  
Second String. They didn't start, but  
they showed up just like your just like  
your your second stringers on a sports  
team. They didn't start, but they showed  
up and they put out. Really good effort  
when they were there. Now, why are we  
going through this series? I talked about  
this last week, but I'm going to talk  
about it again this week because we need  
to keep hearing it. Why are we going  
through this? Why are we looking at some  
of the lesser known characters in  
Scripture? And the reason is because God  
communicates in all His wisdom. With  
sovereignty and how he's chosen to write  
the 66 books of the Bible, He  
has chosen to, in much of Scripture,  
communicate through story. Now, when I

say story, I'm not at all talking about fictional story. I'm talking about biographies where we see God working in and through. People's lives. And what's so wonderful about it is as you see God working in and through people's lives and you read the stories, you realize very quickly that outside of Jesus Christ, these are not perfect people. None of them. They have their flaws. They have their strengths. They have their insecurities. They have the things they're good at. They have the things they're terrible. That they have areas where they mature and grow and they have areas where they refuse to mature and grow. And yet God in all his wisdom continues to work through people. And guess what, Church? That has not changed one bit. God still chooses to work through people. And every single one of us can say, Yep, I got my own flaws, got my insecurities. About the areas that I need to work on and areas I'm good at.

And as you look at the Old Testament especially, there's so much narrative in the Old Testament. You get to see God working through these lives. And the only problem is sometimes we focus on the same people over and over and over again, the big ones that everybody knows about. So I wanted to take a little bit of time. Step back and focus on those we perhaps don't talk about a lot, starting with King Saul. Everybody knows who he is. But when his last time you heard a sermon series on King Saul? Don't say last year because I don't blow my point here. Just keep it to yourself. I'm sure you haven't heard about King Saul for quite some time. I've never heard a sermon series on him. At least only in the context of David's life. I do want to repeat the quote I gave last week because it's so poignant and true. Otto von Bismarck, the German Chancellor in the 19th century. He said only a fool learns from his own mistakes, but the wise man learns from the mistakes

of others. Boy, is that ever true.

Only a fool learns from his own mistakes.

The wise man or the wise woman learns

from the mistakes of others. But you can

flip that around and say the same thing,

and it's equally true. Only a fool learns

from his or her own successes. The wise

person learns from the successes of

others. All right, so here's what we're

going to do last week. We were in First

Samuel 8 and then we basically just got

up to Chapter 9 today. We're going to get

through half of Chapter 9. I'm going to

keep an eye on the time because we have

communion today. It might be a shorter

sermon. As I was prepping this, I hit

halfway through the chapter and I

realized either you're going to do the

whole chapter, you're going to stop here

because it's just, it's cut right in the

middle. So I decided to do. Half the

chapter. We'll see how long it takes. But

I do want to start with this. Let's start

with a brief recap. And part of the

reason I do these recaps is when I became a pastor, everybody said you're gonna have to repeat yourself over and over and over again before people really start to hear what you're saying. And I was like, that's not true. Once or twice is enough. And I was wrong. Boy, was I ever wrong. I was dead. Wrong. You do have to say the same thing again and again and again. And to me, sometimes it feels like I'm repeating myself ad nauseam. But a lot of times for the church, it's like I gotta remember, you gotta hear it a few times. So we're going to back up and I'm not going to do it all because we don't need to, but I am going to hit the highlights of what's happened in Scripture so far. And then how that brings us up to the present moment in the nation of Israel. And y'all, I'll just say this if you get this story. Then again, much of life will start to make sense to you. Like if you understand God's Kingdom, Satan's Kingdom, and

everybody's in one or the other, and the nations of the world belong to one or the other, then life will begin to make a lot more sense and the actions of those around you will also begin to make.

A lot more sense. I remember this was years ago, but I was listening to this. I don't know why I was listen to it, this silly radio show and there was these two Christian commentators and one of the commentators he was just outraged. He was so outraged and he kept going on and on and on and he was outraged in a nutshell because. Those non Christians in this nation, they're just, they're just not acting very Christianly. And he was so mad about it. Like, don't they know? And on and on he went. He was like, guy, they're not Christians. They're not Christians. Therefore they are not going to act or think or see things the way that you see them. You're getting upset at them because you're expecting non Christians to act like. Questions. It

ain't gonna happen, Paul. Maybe you just focus on your own camp and have Christians act like Christians. That be a good place to start. But he didn't understand this basic thing. Like, man, they're not in God's Kingdom. They don't belong to God through Jesus Christ, and therefore their actions are going to reflect that. And when you get that, you stop getting so mad at people who aren't doing what you think. They ought to do. Why would they? OK, so let me recap it. I feel like I'm a little loud, Craig, maybe a little echo. We have realized in this room that if you're sitting here, you get a different, totally different experience than if you're sitting over there. So we do our best to try try to even it out. But let's let's talk about it for a minute. Again, I'm not going to go through it all, but you go back to. Businesses, and here's what you find out. God creates everything. He creates Adam and Eve in his image, meaning he

imprints part, part of himself onto them  
and therefore everyone who will follow  
from them. And he does that because  
he gives them a job. Their job  
is to do what he does.

It's to create, it's to go forth and  
fill the earth with life. It's to use  
the image of God within them, the  
intelligence they have, the complex  
speech we're able to use to communicate  
with one another. The physical bodies are  
imagination. To use all those things to  
take his Kingdom, his good world, and.  
Building into a place where life thrives,  
a place filled with life and order and  
beauty. Their job is to rule and reign on  
His behalf, to be an extension of His  
ruling authority. And for those of you in  
this room who are Christians, and I know  
that's many of you, guess what?  
Our job hasn't really changed. Still  
our job. When you get back into the  
Kingdom of God, what do you become? You  
become an emissary of His who helps

advance his Kingdom in a Dark World.

Alright, so that's the setup. But we keep reading and we find out that Adam and Eve are not the only intelligent beings that God created. He also made, at some point in time, angels. And of these angels, one Angel was very, very special. He was called the Morning star, He was called Lucifer. He was in charge of the music in heaven. He has given incredible beauty and power and just influence in heaven. And eventually it all went to his head and he decided, I don't want to use these gifts God has given me to serve God. I want to be God, I want to take God's throne for myself, and I want to build my own Kingdom, not His. Lucifer fails. He and all his followers are cast out of heaven. And So what he does is he comes down to earth with one intention, and that intention is this. If I can't have heaven to be my Kingdom, I'll have Earth. It's as simple as that. He comes down, he says if I can't have

heaven, then I'll take Earth. But if he's going to take Earth. He's got to take human beings, and how is he going to do it? The same way that he's been doing it for as long as human beings have been on this earth. He's going to do it by enslaving them through his lies. And the more that I think about this and this whole idea of it's not an idea, it's just a reality of Satan working through people via the lies that he implants. What he really does is he implants the lies, which causes certain emotions. And Satan is a master of human emotion and he knows just what the place and just what the tweak and just what to say. And just what to get you to believe, to feel a certain sort of way? And then when you feel a certain sort of way, you do certain things. So what does he do? He implants this lie into Adam and Eve that God can't be trusted, that he's holding out on them. And he plants that lie, and they begin to feel, then why should I serve

God if that's not? If that's true, why  
don't I instead use all these abilities  
God has given me in order to build my own  
Kingdom instead of His, make it in my own  
image and likeness instead of His. It's  
no accident that when you look out, when  
you look through history at the great  
kings of the world, what do they do? They  
build an image of themselves. They want  
to make the world and their little  
Kingdom in their own image and likeness.  
But when human beings believe that they  
missed the lie within the lie, and the  
lie within the lie is this, and most  
people, the vast majority of the world,  
still doesn't understand when they did  
that they were never building their  
kingdoms. Whose Kingdom were they  
actually building? Satans.  
That's the lie within the lie.  
When they try to cast off the shackles of  
God's, you know, authority over them and  
become God's unto themselves and they  
thought we'll build our own Kingdom.

Satan just sat back and he said, you know what? You're never going to build your own kingdoms. You're only going to be building my Kingdom. And that's what's been going on. Ever since.

And as you read through the Old Testament especially, you begin to see that the nations of the world, they belong to Satan. I encourage you at some point to do a little bit of research into how the nations of the world during that time period conducted themselves. It wasn't pretty the way things worked, not that it's any prettier today, but they belonged to Satan. So what does God do?

This is the. For the Old Testament he reaches down into the nations of the world. He pulls out one man, Abraham and his family and he says I'm going to make you a great nation, a people set apart for myself and you through a covenant law based relationship with me. You are going to be a light to the other nations and you are meant to invite. Him back into

a relationship with me. Think about light shining in the darkness. Same language that Jesus uses, the New Testament writers uses of us. And then you go to Isaiah and the same language is being used of Israel, ultimately pointing towards Jesus Christ. You are meant to be a light. You are meant to invite others in. Back into that restored, renewed relationship with God, and as Israel conducted themselves according to the laws that God gave, they were meant to show the world through their example what it means to live as a citizen of His Kingdom. That was the intent.

That was Israel's purpose. Alright then, you keep going through the Old Testament.

We're gonna go really fast here. What do you see? Israel becomes a nation. Israel goes down to Egypt. Israel is enslaved by Egypt. Think about enslaved by the nations of the world, Enslaved by Satan's dominion. God raises up a deliverer. Moses. Moses delivers Joshua, Moses's

successor, then conquers Israel,  
continues to stray and stray and  
stray. And so as you get  
to the book of Judges, God  
keeps raising up judges to restore  
and to lead. Moses delivers Joshua,  
conquers Israel, strays. God raises up  
leaders. In order to restore and then to  
lead them. And that takes us right to the  
prophet Samuel, who is probably the  
greatest of the judges. But there is a  
problem. And don't miss this because this  
is going to follow you all through the  
rest of Samuel and the rest of the Old  
Testament, or at least Samuel, 1st and  
2nd Kings, First and Second Chronicles,  
all of it. There's a problem. You've got  
Samuel the prophet. You've got Eli the  
priest. Eli follows God. Samuel follows  
God. Guess who doesn't follow God?  
They're sons. Both these men have two  
sons. And so those sons, all four  
of them, are totally corrupt. The priests  
are doing abominable things. They're not

acting wholly because they're not. Acting set apart. Instead, they're acting like everybody else. They're acting like all the other nations and the the prophet Son Samuel. They're not being just judges, they're taking bribes. They too are being corrupt, which tells you that Israel has a very, very serious problem because their next generation isn't going to follow the Lord. I said it last week, and it's worth saying again. Make sure church you invest heavily in the next generation. Why? Because the spiritual fervency lies with them. You forget about them. The whole thing is going down. OK, that is brings us to the next section where we let's picked off picked up last week. We got to first Samuel 8 and basically the people come and they say to Samuel this they say, listen, we want you to give us a king so that we can be note the language here like. All the other nations.

Now the writers put that in their  
intentionally we want to be like all the  
other nations. And any astute readers  
scripture would immediately go whoa,  
whoa, whoa. Your whole purpose, Israel,  
is to not be like the other nations.  
Your whole purpose is to be set apart  
from those other nations. But they come  
and they say. If you want to be  
like the other nations now. Gotta  
make sure I'm not spending too much time  
on this, but make sure you get this.  
There wasn't anything necessarily wrong  
with Israel asking for a king. The whole  
flow of the Bible so far has been  
pointing towards a king and Jesus himself  
come from the line of the kings. What's  
the problem with Israel's request? Why  
did it irk Samuel and then irk God and  
God ultimately? Just give it to him  
anyways. It's because the people were  
trying to take matters into their own  
hands. They were trying to say this is  
how we think things ought to go. We don't

trust God to care for us as Samuel's  
getting older and to provide the leader  
that is coming next. And one of the  
things they say in First Samuel is they  
say First Samuel 8. Let me get there  
myself.

Yeah, First Samuel 8:20, you don't have to  
turn there. Just listen. He says that we  
may be like all the nations, that our  
king may judge us and go out before us  
and fight our battles. And yet in the  
very previous chapter, Chapter 7, what do  
you find out? God fought their battle.

He did exactly that. He did this  
miraculous victory and delivered them  
from the Philistines. And then yet the  
very next chapter they're coming and  
saying, Samuel, we trust you, but you're  
old and your sons aren't going to follow  
the Lord. And we may not be strong  
followers of Yahweh ourselves, but we  
know enough to know that the countries  
led by unjust judges were in big trouble.

So give us a king. Who will

fight our battles for it? Sam was  
like, didn't you? He just did. He  
fought him 1 chapter ago. He delivered  
you from the Philistines.  
Now what does God do at that point?  
He says warn them.  
And then give it to him.  
It's a lot of fun to read through the  
Bible and just observe how God works. He  
does this a lot, he warns. And he  
says, Are you sure that's what you want?  
And all the people say to Samuel, Samuel  
talks to God. God talks, I'm sorry,  
Samuel talks to God. Then Samuel talks to  
the people on behalf of the Lord. He  
says, is this, Are you sure this is what  
you want? And the people go, yes, yes,  
because their emotions are going crazy  
and they want to get it all taken care  
of. And they don't want to live in the  
uncomfortable ambiguity of the in between  
wondering what's going to happen. And God  
says, OK. It's all yours.  
But he warns them, and here's what he

warns them. Paraphrase. It's all in Chapter 8. He says, you know you'll get a king. But he's gonna act like a king. He's gonna act like he's got a government to run. He's gonna build an army off the backs of your children. He's gonna build an empire off of your taxes. He's gonna take and he's gonna use and he's basically gonna do his job, which is to build a country and protect it. And in that day, Samuel says you are going to wish to high heaven that you have just trusted me. And later on in the life of Israel, you find out that's exactly what happened. Last week, I talked about this movie clip that I found that, you know, you know, taxes, taxes, taxes because that's what Samuel's saying to the Israelites. There's going to be taxes, taxes, taxes. And then I had a bunch of people say, I would love to see that movie clip. So I found the movie clip. Let's watch it

together. This is what's going to happen  
to Israel. We go ahead and pull that up.  
Maybe somebody recognized this. This is  
the clip I was referring to.

Taxes. Beautiful,

lovely taxes

haha.

One comment cracked me up. Someone said  
that's the most accurate representation  
of our of a government official Disney  
has ever done. I was like, let's see it  
one more time. It's short. This is this  
is what Samuel says is going to happen.

Taxes. Beautiful, lovely

taxes.

If I work for the IRS, I'd play that in  
the background multiple times a day. Just  
tell everyone likes their job. Taxes,  
taxes. Beautiful, lovely taxes. That guy.

You guys gotta watch that movie. It's  
it's really funny. Umm,  
power. Loved it. Alright, let's keep  
going. We can't just watch Disney clips,  
we have to, we gotta preach, we gotta

keep going. Alright, that brings us to Chapter 9. It's all been said and done. Israel has set themselves up. They've come to the Lord. The Lord has said give them what they want. Samuel has warned them, they said. All right, we've heard you. We still want a king, and so now we're going to find out what that king is going to be like. Now, our whole job here, as we come into the first half of Chapter 9, is this all we're being asked to do is observe. Observe because it introduces this guy, Saul. And we're just observing what we can learn about Saul. And as we observe about Saul, we're also going to learn a lot about God. Because when we start wondering, what is God's response to Israel going to be? Is he going to punish them? Is he going to give them a rotten leader? Just say, OK, fine, I'll give you the worst leader I can find and see what happens. What's he going to do in response to them? So we're going to learn

what we can about Saul. And I want to remind you because we're about to read a bunch of stuff and some of it has to do with donkeys. And you're like, why are we reading this right now? Because the biblical writers put it in and they are masters of conciseness. And if it's there, it's because it matters. So let's go ahead and let's jump in together. Grab your Bibles and go to First Samuel Chapter 9. And this is following all the events of Chapter 8. And now we're going to meet the guy who is going to be king. Let's observe what we can about him. Chapter 9, verse one there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of I'll do my best avial, the son of Zeor, son of Beckworth, son of Aphia, A Benjamite and a man of wealth. Now first observation. You wouldn't know it unless you looked into it a little bit, but that ancestry just listed. Is inconsequential. Like, they're not really anywhere else in

Scripture. There's no one important in that ancestry. There's no one that's going to stand out. And even the tribe that he's coming from, Benjamin, is the smallest of all of Israel's tribes.

The only thing that we really know about this guy that's extraordinary is that he's wealthy. He's some, you know, doesn't say what his business is, probably farming, ranching, that type of thing. But he's wealthy. So first thing to think about is this. And if you go back through scripture, you're gonna find this again and again. God loves to work through those that you would least expect. He loves it and he keeps on doing it. He loves to work through those you least expect, which means church. And I'm sure if we went around the room and told stories, we would see this demonstrated in our own lives over and over again. He just doesn't work the way that we would work. He loves to work. He looks. Excuse

me, He loves God can't talk. He loves to work through those you'd least expect. Which means it's usually the opposite of how we would do things. Think for a minute about God's chosen leaders. So far you've got Jacob, the younger brother. Which is not supposed to be the case. Jacob was a deeply flawed man who passed on a lot of generational father wounds to the rest of his kids. You've got Joseph, who was probably the best of the lot, a man of very high character, but he was also the youngest or almost the youngest in his family. Again, not the way that any one of us would work. You've got Moses who was kind of a spoiled brat, Egyptian Hebrew child, who clearly had an anger problem because he killed a guy and then he went on the run and then God eventually came to him and said, you're gonna lead my people. And he was like, I don't think so. Maybe you should find somebody else. And he has this whole argument with God like I'm,

I'm not, Maybe he said like this, I'm not good at. Speaking something along those lines. Something was up with this speech. He says I'm not good at speaking and God says I don't care. You are going to lead my people. Then you get to Samuel and if you read first Samuel chapter one verse 1, you see Samuel's lineage and you find out nothing special. There's really no clear answer for like why did God choose this random? Guy with two wives, and then you just picked one of those wives. Except for maybe beyond the fact that Hannah was clearly a very devoted follower of Yahweh. Then you get to Saul, the next leader, and what do you find out? Nothing. God just picks from the most unexpected people what he should have done. If we were in charge, he would have gone to the line of the priests and would have gone to a specific powerful family and we would pull people out of that line and everyone would have gone. Ohh yes this makes perfect sense.

But he just pulls a random Benjamite man  
out Now about the only thing with Saul  
that does. The part is how he looks. So  
look at verse 2 with me. 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. So if you're  
going to have a king for your country.  
What do you want him to do? I mean, if  
at all possible, you'd really like him to  
look the part. Why? Cause he kind of  
represents the entire country. And if you  
can have somebody who doesn't look like  
Putin, then you're probably gonna do  
pretty well. So he finds this guy and at  
least, hey, he looks the part. He's tall,  
he's good looking, he's handsome. But  
sometimes when somebody's handsome, they  
can be completely fold themselves and be  
a real pain. In the rear. So we're going  
to find out if that's the case with Saul.  
What do we know about this guy? Does he

sit in front of the mural day styling his hair and admiring his face? Is he that type of person? Or is he somebody who's humble, who listens, who submissive and to authority, all those things? Let's keep reading. He had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel More.

That's and then he from his shoulders upward, he was taller than any of the people. He looked like Travis Kelsey minus the attitude. Verse 3.

You could probably catch a little better too. OK, verse 3. 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. Dad comes along and says we've lost donkeys, not good.

Take one of the servants and go. And what does Saul do? He goes,

verse 4 And he passed through the Hill Country of Ephriam, and passed through the land of Shalisha. They did

not find them. And they passed through the land of Shalim, and they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them. Now pause. Permanent. The biblical writers never just put something in there like it's too too much happens and too short a period of time. Why are we hearing about Saul looking for Dad's donkeys? Think about the other sons that we've heard about over the last couple chapters. Eli Sons. What they have gone looking for the donkeys. Were they obedient to their Father? Not at all. Samuel's Sons. Were they obedient to their father? No, they were terrible examples. But then you get to Saul, and the first thing that you see about him besides his looks is. He's obedient to his dad. Which the writer saying, hey, note the contrast Saul obedient to his dad versus the other four sons not obedient to their fathers. You already start to learn a

little bit about Saul's character. Let's

keep reading verse 5.

When they came to the land of

Zuf, 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 me. Forget you.

No, he actually says, lest he

become anxious about us.

Again, small detail, but never

random. He's saying a couple

things. One, Saul clearly has a close

relationship with his dad. He has an

emotional connection with him. He knows

enough to know his dad is going to worry

about him. But then the second thing you

see is that Saul cared not just about

himself. He also cared about the status

of his servant. There's more going on.

Than just saw verse 6. But he referring

to the servant, said to him, Behold,

there is a man of God in the 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. Then Saul said to his servant, But if we go, what can we bring? The man for the bread and our sacks is gone, and there is no present. Bring the man of God. What do we have? So in those days, if you want to see a prophet and you're asking for advice, you always brought something with you. Think about Nahum naman, excuse me, naman, visiting Elijah with all those gifts, the servant answered Saul again. Here I have 1/4. I have with me 1/4 of a shekel of silver, and I will give it to the man of God. Tell or our way 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 and Saul said to his servant, well said, come, let us go. So they went to the city where the man of God was all right, they're on their way. They've got some money. What happens next verse 11. And they went

up to the hill to the city, and they met  
young women coming out to draw water.  
And they went up the hill to the city,  
and there they met young women coming out  
to draw water. What the  
Hebrew writer is doing is this. He  
is setting you up because what happens  
in so many other stories when somebody  
goes and they meet a young woman  
at the well this has happened like  
3 times so far. Think of Isaac.  
Where did Abraham's servant find Isaac's  
Rebecca? Wife. At the  
well, think of Jacob. Where did Jacob  
first meet Rachel and then find his  
uncle Laban? At the well as they  
were coming out to draw water. Think  
of Moses. Moses flees, He goes into  
the desert. Where does Moses meet some  
women coming out to draw water?  
You know, I just gave it away. Where else  
would you draw water? Where does he meet  
them? At the well. And then what happens  
there? He gets introduced to the father,

and then he ends up marrying one of them.

And on and on it goes. What is the take away? What are we supposed to learn from this? It's very clear. If you're a single guy and you want a wife, find a well, that's straightforward. So for single guys in the room, if you can't find one because they're not around much, we can dig 1. And I would suggest going there at the heat of the day and just hoping for the best. And I'll try to alert some gals to maybe be there.

Listen, what happens at the well over and over again. We'll just put it this way, God's involved.

He's there. He sets things up, it's not random.

And for the for the Hebrew writers, they're just flashing this massive billboard that says, hey, pay attention, Saul's going to the well with his servant. Sounds very, very familiar. Pay attention to what happens next.

So Saul goes to the well. He meets the

girls coming up to draw water. They must have been thrilled when they saw him. They were probably thinking of all the different stories that I just said. They're thinking that's tall, dark, good looking man. Who knows, maybe he needs a wife. They flirted with him a lot, but he just had a question, where was I?

OK, 14, thank you. They went up to the hill to the city. They met the young women coming out to draw water and said to them, is the seer there? 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. 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. And afterward those who are invited will eat. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately. So they went up to the city, and as they were entering the

city, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on the way up to the high place.

Verse 15. We're going to stop at verse.

Yeah. That's 16 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel.

Tomorrow about this time, I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be Prince over my people, and he shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines, right seeing my people, because their cry has come to me. Alright, we're gonna draw some conclusions and then we're gonna go to the communion table together.

What can we learn from this so far? And again, I know we're kind of stopping halfway, but you don't want to listen to me talk for an hour and a half. I don't wanna talk for an hour and a half. We're going to continue on this at if you continue on at a future time. What do we learn so far?OK,  
the first thing is this. It's not random,  
is it?God

is involved. The donkeys getting

lost, we're not random.

The women at the well were not random.

Saul's genetics. Listen. Saul's

appearance, his genetics weren't random.

God had everything

under control.

Now I don't know if a ton of time, but

perhaps just think on that throughout the

week as you deal with whatever you're

dealing with in your own lives. It's not

random. I'm not saying read into it too

much. I had a friend who made a life

changing decision because he saw a

certain license plate. I didn't think it

was a good idea. It's like you might want

more than that, but things aren't. God is

in control. Throughout this whole story,

God is moving. What else do you learn?

This is a big one. This hit me a lot

throughout the week. God is kind.

He's kind.

Even though Israel's request just

unveiled this huge lack of trust in them,

he still gives them someone who at least  
first glance. We'll find out more later  
on who's a good leader. He  
certainly looks the part. He looks  
exactly like he'd want a king to look.

And his character is gonna be revealed as  
he ascends in power. But even in the  
midst of their disobedience, God remains  
kind. And you will see this over and  
over and over again in Israel's history.

And then the last one, and there's so  
many I could pull from this, but I think  
this one, it's faithful to the text.

At this point, Israel,  
including Saul, still has  
a choice.

Israel, including Saul, because he's part  
of Israel and soon he's going to be  
the leader of Israel. They still have a  
choice. There are gonna  
be consequences from their actions, like  
taxes and their sons being drafted and  
all the different things that Samuel  
warned them about in chapter 8. But God,

in his kindness and in his mercy and  
in his second chances, he still gives  
them a choice to follow Him and to  
fulfill their purpose, which is to be a  
light. To the nations.

So let me just put it  
this way. Note God's kindness and  
his patience.

And my goodness, you read through the  
rest of the story of Israel, and God's  
patience is on full display.

Note his kindness and his patience. He  
doesn't turn against them. He's  
incredibly patient. He gives him chance  
after chance after chance. And as you  
read through the story of Israel, you'll  
find out there are generations of kings  
that are generations of prophets, people  
coming and warning. And some of those  
kings are pretty good and a lot of them  
aren't so good, but some of them are. But  
he gives them chance after chance after  
chance after chance until finally.

Finally, at the very end, they go into

exile.

But despite their disobedience, God is

kind. He is patient.

He is forgiving. He doesn't use

it as an opportunity to give them what

they deserve by getting some rotten

leader. They give him a guy who looks the

part and hopefully can play the part.

And he's patient, man. He gives him

chance after chance after chance. And in

it all, they still have a choice.

And the basic choices of this church.

This is what he's saying to Israel. Will

you trust me?

Will you trust me?

Who? You try to take matters into your

own hands and control the situation.

They've already answered him once and

saying give us a king and he says OK and

now he's asking him again. But will you

trust me? In this next season.

OK, that's where Israel is at. Now. We're

gonna come to the communion table here in

just a minute.

But let me just say this and I'll invite

the deacons up.

How many people in this room have seen

God's patience in their lives? Raise your

hand. Good.

Every single one of us.

So whatever the circumstance

is. The question

that God is putting forth hasn't changed.

Whatever's going on in your own

individual life, God is saying this.

Listen, will you trust me?

And as we've seen already, he doesn't

force himself on us, and he's not gonna

make you. But usually he warns.

And then he's patient, and then he waits

and he gives chance after chance after

chance. And he's saying, will you turn to

me and trust me?