

Text: 1 Samuel 9–10, Part 1

Main Idea: God values character over charisma and equips those He calls.

Teaching Aim: To show that God sees the heart, works through ordinary events, and empowers leaders by His Spirit.

I. Why Leadership Matters

1. **Israel wanted a king like the nations.**
 - They wanted someone visible, impressive, and battle-ready.
 - Their request showed a desire to shift responsibility instead of trusting God.
2. **God's concern was deeper than appearance.**
 - The issue in leadership is not image or charisma, but character.
 - God's people must value what God values.
3. **This lesson applies to every sphere of influence.**
 - Leadership matters at home, in the church, at work, at school, and in the community.
 - Believers are called to influence culture with truth, humility, and faithfulness.

II. Saul Looked the Part (1 Samuel 9:1–2)

1. **Saul had every outward advantage.**
 - He was handsome, tall, and from a respected family.
 - He looked like the king the people wanted.
2. **Appearance can impress while hiding deeper issues.**
 - People judge leaders by what they see.
 - God looks beyond the surface to the heart.
3. **Key principle:** God's standard for leadership is character, not charisma.

III. God Works Through Ordinary Events (1 Samuel 9:3–14)

1. **The story begins with lost donkeys.**
 - A small family problem became the means God used to guide Saul to Samuel.
 - God often uses ordinary or frustrating events to move His purposes forward.
2. **Saul showed promising traits.**
 - He was willing to serve.
 - He cared about his father.
 - He listened to counsel.
3. **Key principle:** God is at work in life's details, even when we do not see it.

IV. God's Sovereignty Overrides Human Motives (1 Samuel 9:15–17)

1. **Before Saul arrived, God had already spoken to Samuel.**
 - This meeting was not accidental.
 - God was not reacting; He was directing.
2. **Even in Israel's misguided request, God was at work.**
 - The people's motives were flawed, yet God was still merciful.
 - He would use this moment to bring deliverance from the Philistines.
3. **Key principle:** God works through imperfect circumstances to accomplish His purposes.

V. Saul Began Humble, but Humility Must Last (1 Samuel 9:18–24)

1. **Saul did not think too highly of himself.**
 - He came from a small tribe and an insignificant clan.
 - This early humility seemed promising.
2. **God often begins leaders in humility.**
 - Humility creates dependence on God.

- Pride grows when humility is not guarded.
- 3. **Key principle:** It is not enough to begin humble; leaders must stay humble.

VI. God Confirms His Call and Supplies What Leaders Need (1 Samuel 10:1–8)

1. **First sign: the donkeys were found.**
 - God showed Saul He could handle the problem that started the journey.
 - Leaders must learn that God is able to solve what concerns them.
2. **Second sign: Saul would receive bread.**
 - God showed that He would provide for Saul's needs.
 - Those God calls, He sustains.
3. **Third sign: the Spirit of the Lord would come upon Saul.**
 - God would empower Saul to do what he could not do on his own.
 - God's call always requires God's power.
4. **Key principle:** God gives confirmation, provision, and power to those He appoints.

VII. Spiritual Power Is Essential (1 Samuel 10:6–10)

1. **God changed Saul's heart.**
 - This was God's enabling for leadership.
 - Saul was being equipped for a task greater than his natural ability.
2. **The Spirit's work brought visible change.**
 - People noticed Saul was different.
 - When God works in a person, others often see the difference.
3. **Application:** Believers do not just need better methods; they need the power of the Holy Spirit.

4. **Key principle:** No one can fulfill God's call apart from God's power.

VIII. Leadership Brings Visibility and Criticism (1 Samuel 10:11–16; 10:26–27)

1. **People noticed Saul's change.**
 - They asked, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"
 - Real spiritual change draws attention and questions.
2. **Leadership brings mixed responses.**
 - Some supported Saul; others despised him.
 - Public influence brings both affirmation and criticism.
3. **Key principle:** Leaders must not build their identity on public opinion, but on God's call and presence.

IX. Final Applications

1. **God is still calling leaders.**
 - Every believer has a place of influence.
 - The question is not whether you have influence, but whether you are using it faithfully.
2. **Character matters more than image.**
 - God is not impressed by appearance, status, or personality alone.
 - He is looking for humble hearts He can trust.
3. **The Holy Spirit is essential for effective service.**
 - What God calls us to do cannot be done in fleshly strength.
 - We need His power for leadership, obedience, and transformation.
4. **God restores and directs.**
 - What seems lost is not beyond His care.
 - He provides, confirms, and leads His people