

1 Samuel 9:1-10:16

**1 Samuel 9-10:16** [9:1] 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.** [2] 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.

[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."** [4] And 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.**

[5] When 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."** [6] But 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."**

[10:1] 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.** [2] When 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?”** [3] Then 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. [4] And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand. [5] After 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. [6] Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them **and be turned into another man.** [7] Now when these signs meet you, **do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you.** [8] Then 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.”

[9] When he turned his back to leave Samuel, **God gave him another heart.** And all these signs came to pass that day. [10] When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the **Spirit of God rushed upon him,** and he prophesied among them. [11] And 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?”** [12] And a man of the place answered, “And who is their father?” Therefore it became a proverb, “Is Saul also among the prophets?” [13] When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

[14] Saul'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.” [15] And Saul's uncle said, “Please tell me what Samuel said to you.” [16] And 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.

I've got a quick 3 points for our message today.

**1. God works through the ordinary.** What is more ordinary than farm chores? What is more ordinary than a man losing something? What is more ordinary than a parent worried about their child? This stuff happens every day in most of our lives. Chores, minor losses, worry. Simple things.

There are times in our lives that we can look back and see the miraculous. How God did something amazing. It can be easy to get addicted to the amazing. Entire church ministries are built on the “amazing” acts of God. Experience the POWER of God in worship. The POWER of God in your marriage and relationships. The POWER of this mighty God. And this is all fine but sometimes we expect to hear from God in a huge way when He is answering us in a small and quiet way.

We don't know what Saul was thinking about his own future while toiling away under the leadership of his father on the farm. Maybe he was just hoping to have a place of his own one day. Maybe he really didn't have any plans. Maybe he just wanted to get through the week to the weekend so he could play videos in his dad's basement?

But God was moving. While Saul was working away for his father, God was working.

We get so wrapped up in wanting to experience the extraordinary don't we. We want to win championships. Experience greatness. We seek after it. Work towards it. Set our goals and get after it.

We should know by now that God works in the ordinary. He uses ordinary people, with ordinary problems and circumstances. He watches as people are faithful and consistent. He uses the little people in life. The obscure. The boring. The unpopular. He uses those who fly under the radar... quietly serving and waiting.

Sometimes the most important thing we can do is the most ordinary. Whether it is the daily grind of work, going to school each day or the taking out of the garbage. God uses these ordinary circumstances to place Himself in our path... especially when we are not looking for Him.

Sometimes the most important thing we can do is chase after donkeys.

...fix broken plumbing, mow the lawn, wash the dishes, make a run to the store for dinner.

*If we are faithful in the little things, God seems to bless us with much.*

*While you are going to work every day wondering what is next for you.... God is working. While you feel stuck or trapped, God is working. While you feel defeated and depressed, God is working. Keep doing what you know to be right. God will make Himself known to you.*

**2. God does not always explain Himself.** *In fact, He rarely seems to do so.*

**Why Saul? Why me? Why you?** *Why donkeys and prophets?*

**Why? Because it pleases Him.**

*Sometimes we get to be "in" on it. Sometimes we get to see that which is about to unfold, but most of the time, we either see the purpose and fruit of His work after the fact, or not at all.*

*Sometimes it bothers us doesn't it? Like Saul's uncle... we want to know the details. We want to know how we were used, what God was doing, what purpose our part plays in it all. **And especially when suffering or hardship is involved.***

**But we must remember that God is God and we are not.** *And we may never know the answer to our question.*

*Sometimes it just needs to be enough that we know the one who knows the answer, even if He doesn't always share that answer with us.*

**3. God uses the most unlikely of people.** *Who do you know that God has used and you thought... "huh... I never would have thought..."*

**Saul is an unlikely King.**

**Look at the difference between the pre-anointed Saul and after Samuel anoints him King...**

*The difference is so drastic that people are really taking notice. They even start a new saying... "Well, is even Saul among the prophets?" We might say... "will wonders never cease..." The people are so surprised, it is a marvel that seems beyond explanation.*

**God seems to defy human expectation all throughout history.** *He gives the most unlikely people all they need to serve Him effectively. He equips Saul. People might be critical of Saul, but no one can be critical of the work of God in Saul.*

**It is God that makes us usable for ministry.**

*It is God that makes us all usable. He's not looking at us and saying "wow, Chuck is so awesome, I hope he plays for my team someday..."*

**God knows our sin. He knows our depravity, but He uses us anyway.** *All He is looking for is a humble willing heart. A person that is just self aware enough to know that they have nothing to offer this great God. The minute you think you are unworthy is the minute God says "I can use this one".*

**And God will also use those who don't care about Him or His purposes.** *He will even use His enemies, but in the end His use of them rarely benefits these enemies. But it will always benefit His will, His people and ultimately His glory.*

**Jesus is an unlikely King as well.**

*He didn't come to us as a military leader with earthly power like many thought he would.*

*Born in a smelly stable in a Podunk town to a girl who was pregnant before marriage. Who would've thought?*

**Who would've thought that this baby would save the world?**

*When you think about what lengths God will go through to save us*

*When you think about this baby that will save us from sin and ultimate death...*

*When you think about Eli and Samuel and Saul.... And how He took these insignificant sinful people and uses them for the establishment of His kingdom...*

*When you think about all of this and how ordinary and unlikely...*

*I don't know... It makes me think... maybe He could even use me and you.*

*Keep chasing the donkeys...*