

Leaders We Love

Life of Samuel series:

Foundations of A Legacy – Samuel Given to God

Are You Listening? – Call of Samuel

Emergence of A Leader – Man of God, Call for Repentance

Conforming to Culture – Give us a King

- rejection of Samuel's son's leadership
- desire for a King to protect, lead, like other nations
- God willing to allow their rejection, give a king now

Leaders We Love – a King is chosen and presented

The Details 1 Sam. 9:1-14

1 There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bekorath, the son of Aphiah of Benjamin. 2 Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else. 3 Now the donkeys belonging to Saul's father Kish were lost, and Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the servants with you and go and look for the donkeys." 4 So he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and through the area around Shalisha, but they did not find them. They went on into the district of Shaalim, but the donkeys were not there. Then he passed through the territory of Benjamin, but they did not find them. 5 When they reached the district of Zuph, Saul said to the servant who was with him, "Come, let's go back, or my father will stop thinking about the donkeys and start worrying about us."

6 But the servant replied, "Look, in this town there is a man of God; he is highly respected, and everything he says comes true. Let's go there now. Perhaps he will tell us what way to take." 7 Saul said to his servant, "If we go, what can we give the man? The food in our sacks is gone. We have no gift to take to the man of God. What do we have?"

8 The servant answered him again. "Look," he said, "I have a quarter of a shekel of silver. I will give it to the man of God so that he will tell us what way to take." 9 (Formerly in Israel, if someone went to inquire of God, they would say, "Come, let us go to the seer," because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.)

10 "Good," Saul said to his servant. "Come, let's go." So they set out for the town where the man of God was. 11 As they were going up the hill to the town, they met some young women coming out to draw water, and they asked them, "Is the seer here?" 12 "He is," they answered. "He's ahead of you. Hurry now; he has just come to our town today, for the people have a sacrifice at the high place. 13 As soon as you enter the town, you will find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. The people will not begin eating until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterward, those who are invited will eat. Go up now; you should find him about this time." 14 They went up to the town, and as they were entering it, there was Samuel, coming toward them on his way up to the high place.

- leading family from an unlikely tribe vs.1
- stature and looks noted – looked like a leader vs. 2
- God sends them on a search – lost livestock vs. 3-4
 - long search, thorough, exhausted their resources
- Heart concerned for others revealed vs. 5
- open to advice – listen to servant about Samuel vs. 6-9
 - note – concerned about what they could offer Sam.

*Aside – the details show God is directing them

- are we open to God directing us this way?
- are we too busy bemoaning our difficult circumstances to see that God might be at work?

Faithfulness of Samuel 9:15- 10:1

“Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed this to Samuel: ¹⁶ “About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him ruler over my people Israel; he will deliver them from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked on my people, for their cry has reached me.” ¹⁷ When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, “This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people.” ¹⁸ Saul approached Samuel in the gateway and asked, “Would you please tell me where the seer’s house is?” ¹⁹ “I am the seer,” Samuel replied. “Go up ahead of me to the high place, for today you are to eat with me, and in the morning I will send you on your way and will tell you all that is in your heart. ²⁰ As for the donkeys you lost three days ago, do not worry about them; they have been found. And to whom is all the desire of Israel turned, if not to you and your whole family line?” ²¹ Saul answered, “But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?”

Then Samuel brought Saul and his servant into the hall and seated them at the head of those who were invited—about thirty in number. ²³ Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the piece of meat I gave you, the one I told you to lay aside.” ²⁴ So the cook took up the thigh with what was on it and set it in front of Saul. Samuel said, “Here is what has been kept for you. Eat, because it was set aside for you for this occasion from the time I said, ‘I have invited guests.’” And Saul dined with Samuel that day. ²⁵ After they came down from the high place to the town, Samuel talked with Saul on the roof of his house. ²⁶ They rose about daybreak, and Samuel called to Saul on the roof, “Get ready, and I will send you on your way.” When Saul got ready, he and Samuel went outside together. ²⁷ As they were going down to the edge of the town, Samuel said to Saul, “Tell the servant to go on ahead of us”—and the servant did so—“but you stay here for a while, so that I may give you a message from God.” ¹ Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul’s head and kissed him, saying, “Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over his inheritance?

Remember Samuel has been:

- rejected, angry with the people – 8:6
- concerned about where this will go – 8:9
- warning them about what a King will do – 8:10-18
- people have refused to listen, rejected his advice – 8:19

Want you to see the Faithfulness of Sam in this Time

- a) was in communication with God, Listening and Obeying
 - revealed the choice for King arriving vs. 15
- b) was watching and waiting
 - preparing food, ready for company
 - still doing his job – going to high place to sacrifice

c) serving the one selected by God

- easing concern about the donkey problem
- feeding and sheltering him
- talking to him – taking time and building relationship
- personal message – God has appointed you
- anointing him – Saul will take over some of his role
- promising to meet in a week – 10:8

Aside – How do I respond when the outcome is disappointing?

- When I am frustrated by God's people, their demands?
- Samuel was faithful to what God wanted in his personal disappointment and rejection by God's people

God Giving a Good King – Unbelievable Grace

“When you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel’s tomb, at Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you, ‘The donkeys you set out to look for have been found. And now your father has stopped thinking about them and is worried about you. He is asking, “What shall I do about my son?”” 3 “Then you will go on from there until you reach the great tree of Tabor. Three men going up to worship God at Bethel will meet you there. One will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, and another a skin of wine. 4 They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them. 5 “After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. 6 The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. 7 Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you. 8 “Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do.”

As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day. ¹⁰ When he and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he joined in their prophesying. ¹¹ When all those who had formerly known him saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other, "What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" ¹² A man who lived there answered, "And who is their father?" So it became a saying: "Is Saul also among the prophets?" ¹³ After Saul stopped prophesying, he went to the high place. ¹⁴ Now Saul's uncle asked him and his servant, "Where have you been?" "Looking for the donkeys," he said. "But when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel." ¹⁵ Saul's uncle said, "Tell me what Samuel said to you." ¹⁶ Saul replied, "He assured us that the donkeys had been found." But he did not tell his uncle what Samuel had said about the kingship.

Look at the Loving Hand of God to Saul

a) I care about you

- donkey's found, food enjoyed, shelter for night

b) I will supply for you

- resources are gone, promise of food at a specific time and place on the way back

c) I will empower you

- you will prophesy, you will be changed

d) I will be with you

- do whatever your hand finds, I will be there

e) I will change your heart

- do what only I can – make you different, new

The Public Pronouncement

“¹⁷ Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the LORD at Mizpah ¹⁸ and said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.’ ¹⁹ But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your disasters and calamities. And you have said, ‘No, appoint a king over us.’ So now present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and clans.”

²⁰ When Samuel had all Israel come forward by tribes, the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. ²¹ Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri’s clan was taken. Finally Saul son of Kish was taken. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found. ²² So they inquired further of the LORD, “Has the man come here yet?” And the LORD said, “Yes, he has hidden himself among the supplies.” ²³ They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. ²⁴ Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.”

Then the people shouted, “Long live the king!”²⁵ Samuel explained to the people the rights and duties of kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the LORD. Then Samuel dismissed the people to go to their own homes.²⁶ Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched.²⁷ But some scoundrels said, “How can this fellow save us?” They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent.”

Samuel makes it Public

a) recounting God’s Faithfulness

b) Clear about the people’s rebellion to date

c) Revealing God’s Choice

- presentation of Saul

- rights and duties of the Kingship

So What

1. Don't Miss The Details of the Story

- show God is working through events in our lives
- teach us to watch for his lessons and love while we walk

2. Don't Miss the Faithfulness of Samuel

- in rejection, disappointment, and seeing what may happen
- stayed close to God, practiced obedience, served others
- where are you in being faithful in disappointment?

3. Don't Miss God Giving them a Good King

- even in their wrong choice – God gives grace to them

- remember today that our God cares about you. His promise is to supply for your needs according to His riches, to indwell and empower you, giving you what you need in all circumstances, promising never to leave you or forsake you, and desiring to change your heart to be like his!

4. Don't Miss The Clear Presentation

- God is faithful
- We have been rebellious
- God has provided for us
- Our response is one of obedient faithfulness