**FAITHFUL REGARDLESS**

**1st Sam 10 - “HIDING AMONG THE BAGGAGE”**

Chapter 9, Saul was selected

He was out looking for his father’s lost donkeys and he met Samuel, whom God had foretold that Saul should be king.

Saul was invited to a surprise feast in his honor, and Samuel spoke to him about his destiny.

Chapter 9 ended with v.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.”

Saul Anointed

**1st Samuel 10:1-26  “**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? **2**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.

*(Traveling worship band)*

**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

*[Saul gets filled with the Holy Spirit and joins a Prophetic Worship band from Gibeah]*

**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.”

*“you must wait seven days until I come” – VERY Important instructions.* Saul would have done well if he had *taken this seriously*, but we find out later that he *did not*.

**Saul Made King**

**9**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?”

God changed Saul’s heart (soul or the spirit), The Holy Spirit came upon Saul (baptized) and gave him the gift of Prophecy. (This is a genuine OT, pre-Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It was selective and seldom not like it was at Pentecost in fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy “‘In the last days, God says, I will **pour** **out** **my** **Spirit** on all people.”

**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.*

*[ He told his uncle that the prophet told him that “’The donkeys are found”, NOT the part where he said, “the Lord anointed you ruler over his inheritance”, he hid that part.]*

**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?”

[ Samuel called a massive gathering of the nation where he selected the *new king*;

* first all twelve tribes, but he selected the tribe of Benjamin
* Then all the clans of Benjamin, and he selected Matri’s clan,
* Then of all the men in that clan, he selected *Saul*.

When they were ready to proclaim him as King over all Israel, he was nowhere to be found.]

**“And the Lord said, “Yes, he has hidden himself among the supplies.”**

*“…and the LORD said, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.” (ESV)*

*And the LORD answered, “There he is, hidden among the equipment.” (NKJ)*

*(KJV) “And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.” ☺*

[ When I was a kid, I sometimes tried to hide under the bed before the school in hopes that my mom wouldn’t notice and I could skip out, *usually* she found me. : )

Saul thought he could stay hidden, but the Lord found him. He had a great hiding spot but couldn’t hide from God.]

[ Like playing hide and seek in my house and having the dog growl at you after you found the best spot]

This is the most memorable part of the chapter for me, Saul was trying to HIDE from God to forfeit his calling, (what was he thinking?) we’ll get back to that.

[After the Lord exposed his hiding place…]

**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.

# Since Israel had never had a king before, Samuel wrote a *“S.O.P. scroll”* for Saul to follow. It undoubtedly contained careful instructions on the importance of obeying the will of God and the words of the prophets.

**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.”

So, immediately Saul had some supporters as well as adversaries. He made some very good friends who came home with him to Gibeah, but he also had *enemies* who were not ashamed to speak against him openly. (Saul did not say anything to them here, but they were silenced in the chapters to come.)

*So, what happened?*

Saul was given a special calling, one that he didn’t necessarily deserve, but that God selected him for.

* God selected him,
* Samuel anointed him,
* The Holy Spirit was poured out upon him,

BUT when it came time to step into his calling, he tried to hide and pass it off…

* Was he shy?
* Was he afraid?
* Was he suffering from an inferiority complex?

We do not know,

But we do know that he was *trying to make himself unavailable!*

What we’ve learned about Saul so far;

1. He was the son of Kish. Kish is described as “a mighty man of power” (1st Sam. 9:1)
   1. Saul was only described as “handsome and tall”, but no mention was made of his leadership or courage. It’s possible that he felt inferior to his “mighty, powerful dad”.
2. His first important mission was not to lead a battle, or build a fortress, it was to go look for lost donkeys.
3. When he couldn’t find them, he wanted to give up, his servant had to convince him to press on and go see the prophet.
4. When Samuel told him that the hope of Israel was in his hands, Saul responded with doubt, saying I am of the least families of the smallest tribe.
5. Even after he was anointed by Samuel, filled with the Spirit of God, was reportedly prophesying with the prophets, had a changed heart and told he would be king…when his uncle asked him to tell him what Samuel said to him, his response was *“the donkeys have been found”.*

Saul’s weaknesses tempted him to be willing to,

*Forfeit the spiritual for the practical.*

He was willing to give up his spiritual calling for his practical convenience

When the servant suggested that they get spiritual help through the Prophet Samuel to help find the lost donkeys , Saul’s immediate response *no*, because they had no practical offering to present to Samuel.

**1st Samuel 9:6-7 “**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?”

When his uncle asked what the Prophet told him, he left out the spiritual part about God selecting him as King, and just told him the practical part about the donkeys.

**1st Samuel 10: 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.*

Most importantly, when Samuel was about to make a Royal Proclamation to announce Saul as the first King of Israel, selected by God himself, he was nowhere to be found…

1st Samuel 10:21-22 “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.”**

*(… “he has hidden himself among the baggage.”)*

*( “he is hidden among the equipment.” )*

*What is the significance of the baggage?*

The supplies, baggage, equipment represent the most practical items in the entire village.

These were the supplies needed for cooking, cleaning, working, and practical everyday life.

Baggage could also imply the things you drag along through life that are keeping you from moving forward.

He was not hiding in the tabernacle, or the high places of worship, he was situated among the practical, trying to make himself unavailable for the spiritual.

“He was hiding among the practical, trying to make himself unavailable for the spiritual.”

*Do we ever do this?*

When God gives us opportunities to step out in ministry or service to him, do we first come up with practical reasons why we can’t?

Do we ever put off the spiritual pursuit of our calling, because the practical pursuit of our comfort has become our first priority?

Almost every example in the Bible of someone responding to God’s calling on their life required them to step out of their carefully situated comfort zone, and pass through a period of uncertainty in order to reach the place where God would bless them and do great things in their lives. (Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Joseph, Moses, David, etc.)

Even JESUS, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, praying Not MY will, but YOURS be done.

All of them had to be willing to forego their practical comfort to pursue their spiritual calling, and God rewarded them for it.

Jesus asked those who wished to follow him the same thing.

* Are you willing to follow, even if it does not provide you the best accommodations?
* Are you willing to follow even if it interferes with your family plans and traditions?
* Are you willing to follow even if it means responding *now*, as opposed to some later date after you tie up all your loose ends?

**Luke 9:57-62 “**As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”**58**Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” **59**He said to another man, “Follow me.”But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” **60**Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” **61**Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” **62**Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus requires us to be willing and available to step forward into his will, leaving our own plans behind to follow Him.

I know it’s not easy, it goes against our human tendency for “*practical planning for comfortable conditions*” and it takes FAITH. (i.e., Trust in Him)

**Heb 11:6** “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him,* … He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Faith - Not Presumption, Not selfish-ambition, those come from our own agenda.

“Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

My experience is that the more you are willing to step out in faith to pursue God’s calling, the more He rewards you with both the best spiritual AND the practical needs for your life.

He does not intend for you to suffer and lack what you need, he supplies all that you need (more than the lilies of the field and birds of the air).

We do need to be willing and available to Seek His Kingdom first, then all the other things will be given to us. (Matt 6:33)

When King David was old, and had lived a lot of life, he wrote a Psalm that sounds for like a Solomon Proverb than a Psalm of David. It says:

**Ps 37:25** “I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.”

God wants to bless you with your practical needs and in your spiritual calling, all you need to do is be Faithful, willing, available and obedient to His word.

**Duet 28:1-2** “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands… blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God.”

**Let’s not hide from God, and forfeit His blessings in our lives!**

**Let’s receive ALL that He has for us, practically and Spiritually!**