

Introduction:

- 1 Samuel 9 & 10
- How many of you think God has something great for you to do? In church it is easy to shout, "Ya!" but shouting on Monday morning at work is another thing. What makes up the difference? Reality, life, boss, the kids, that husband of mine. So many of us disqualify ourselves before we have even started! As a man thinks in his heart so is he. We need heart a change. You know what? God agrees.
- How many of you ever stop to wonder "What is God doing? I wonder what He is up to? Does anyone ever feel like that? Most of us really don't stop to wonder until it bad enough to involve God.
 - You think the donkeys are lost (problem) but God is using them (the problem) to work His plan.
- How many of you have ever said, "I wish I was more..." "I wish I was like..." "I wish I was somebody different than I am." Be careful what you wish for, God just might confuse it with a prayer! These are things we will look at this morning.
- How does a guy who goes out looking for lost donkeys come home King of Israel? God is up to something and He wants to work through you...whether you are king or carrying water.

I. You Have Been Chosen

- A. Providence - the belief that God is guiding us. The belief that God leads in divine destiny.
 1. *"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."* (Jeremiah 1:5, NLT)
 2. *"You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."* (Psalm 139:16, NLT)
 3. I believe that God leads us! I believe that we each have a destiny to fulfill. I believe that each persons life matters to God. IE. It's A Wonderful Life. Clarence the angel and George Bailey. He thought his life did not matter. Some of you have thought even this week, "My life does not matter." Do not disqualify yourself!
- B. *"Now the Lord had told Samuel the previous day, "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him to be the leader of my people, Israel. He will rescue them from the Philistines, for I have looked down on my people in mercy and have heard their cry."* (1 Samuel 9:15-16, NLT) God knows some stuff now! How can He know? Because he has already been there. *"Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish."* (Isaiah 46:10, NLT)
 1. Let take a look at providence in this passage:

- a) Wealthy influential man who cant afford a good fence.
 - b) The donkeys escape.
 - c) Saul takes a servant to look for the donkey. What does the servant have in his pocket?
 - d) Servant has an idea, "Lets find the seer!"
 - e) They have nothing to offer him. They ate all their food. They have rich dad/ boss and no money. See the grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence.
 - f) The servant has a silver coin. They decide to go to town.
 - g) They meet a girl on the way, and she just happened to know where Sam was and what his itinerary was for the day. Catch him quickly before he gets to the party.
 - h) They enter the town, pass though the gates and who do they meet? Samuel!!!
2. More providence - watch this: 1 Sam 9:15-16 Samuel already knows about Saul. God points Saul out. Samuel knows Saul but Saul does not know Samuel. It pays to be prophetic!
- C. Two amazing learning moments for us, happen here:
- 1. You never know when you have been chosen by God to help someone you don't know.
 - a) Saul thought he was looking for donkeys but God was looking for a king. See how life can throw amazing moments at us! IE George Bailey hated being stuck at the building and loan in Bedford Falls but God wanted to save a city from Potter. Saul just wanted to find dad's donkeys and get home. But God had a great assignment for this donkey hunter.
 - b) You never know when you are God's answer to some else's prayer. vs. 16. People were crying out for help to God! God loosed the donkeys and chose the donkey finder to deliver them! Are you making this connection!
 - (1) *"And don't worry about those donkeys that were lost three days ago, for they have been found. And I am here to tell you that **you and your family are the focus of all Israel's hopes.**"* (1 Samuel 9:20, NLT)
 - (2) Going through life, just doing life. Find the donkey go home. Life is good. But God has in mind that you are the chosen one to bring hope to the hopeless around you!

II. What Do You Do When God Chooses You?

- A. The fact that God chooses you makes you intricately special. Therefore you are important! Did you see how many moving parts there were in 9:2-15. Donkeys,

Servant, coin, girl getting water, etc. Your life matters! You are not a mistake. Tell yourself that. Many times a day if you need to!

1. God has something for you to do - today!
2. Don't disqualify yourself!

B. The fact that you are chosen, fashioned before you were in your mothers womb means that you have been appointed to a specific place in life. What you have been appointed to you have been given authority for or anointed to carry out.

1. Saul, got a big job. Son of a wealthy influential man. (That puts a target on you right away.) He stands a head taller than all others. (That makes you stand out in the crowd)
2. Saul was chosen to answer Israel's prayers. Have you ever thought about the fact that you may be the answer to some else's prayers?
3. Saul was anointed 10:1 to take care of God's special possession, His people Israel. God loves His people and He has a lot of them. So guess what? We all have a kingdom job.

C. God takes ordinary people (donkey hunters) and by His Spirit makes them fit for service.

1. Saul 10:6,9,10
 - a) Saul received a new heart! vs 9 It means/translates he received new understanding/something was changed in his inner man!
 - b) Saul received a new anointing! vs 10
2. Judges 6:34 Gideon. The Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon and ...
3. If it is God's work, don't make excuses. 9:21 " I'm from tribe of Benjamin. Smallest of all the tribes. My family is least important. My dad can't ever afford a fence. Why are you talking to me? (He says this while looking down on Samuel!)
4. Gideon - I'm the littlest man, from the weakest clan of Manasseh.

D. What do you do when God chooses you? Say "YES!"

III. **This Is The Man!**

A. *"Then Samuel said to all the people, "This is the man the Lord has chosen as your king. No one in all Israel is like him!" And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!""* (1 Samuel 10:24, NLT)

1. How powerful is that! Chosen by God! Anointed by God.
2. No one else can do this assignment but you!
3. Look at what the people said, "Long live the King!"

B. They found "this is the man" hiding among the baggage!

1. He has a new heart.
2. He has a new anointing.
3. He has a calling.

4. And he is hiding in the baggage. This is the guy the Lord has chosen. How many can relate to Saul at his point? So often it is our baggage that we go back to, to hide in.
 - a) Saul is afraid. Fear is baggage. He has a reason to be afraid. The Philistines rule the land. They are not about to stand for Israel having a king. Kings lead people into battle. He is tall, so it will not be easy to hide.
 - b) You are God's answer to the people's problem. All you have to do is read Israel's history to know how well that will go. Responsibility.
 - c) You are the hope of the people. Everyone is depending on you now. Responsibility.
- C. What we must do is...*Keep your heart, especially after it has been changed. "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."* (Proverbs 4:23, NLT)

Conclusion:

- God does have something for you to do.
- God is up to something - that's providence.
- You see the donkeys are lost (problem) but God is using them (the problem) to work His plan.
 - People are like dumb donkeys. They make dumb decisions and wind up lost. That is why God chooses people like us to find them, help them, bring them home.