

## God's way, not our way (1 Samuel 9:1-10:8 & Luke 3:21-22)

28-April-2019

So, today we're starting a new series on the OT book of 1 Samuel.

We going to pick up where we left off - in August of last year.

There's the usual outline in your bulletin to take some notes and there are Bibles in front of you.

Let me ask for God's help though, before we begin.

Let's pray...

### Recap of 1 Samuel 1-8

Before we look at the Bible passage today - let's do a quick recap of what we learnt in our last series in 1 Samuel - chapters 1 to 8:

#### [PowerPoint 1-Recap 1]

- The Israelites were previously ruled by Judges (1062BC) - like Ehud, Jephthah, Gideon, Samson and Deborah
- During this period of Judges there was a pattern of
  - Sin and rebellion against God
  - God's judgment
  - Repentance
  - A new judge appointed
- God intervened
- A godly woman called Hannah who couldn't have children prayed to God for a child and promised to dedicate the child to the Lord's service
- God answered her prayer

- A baby boy was born - and she named him Samuel - his name means "asked of God"
- Samuel worked with the priest Eli
- Unfortunately, Eli's sons were corrupt - and Eli turned a blind eye to it
- So, God called Samuel as His new priest and prophet and spiritual leader

### [PowerPoint 2-Recap 2]

- Meanwhile, Israel's arch enemy was the Philistines
- The Philistines stole the ark of the covenant [which contained the 10 commandments; a pot containing manna, and Aaron's rod that budded]
- God intervened and the ark was returned to the Israelites
- However, as Samuel got older - his sons - who were to succeed him - were corrupt too - just like Eli's sons
- So, in chapter 8 - vv6-9 we read that - The people said "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so, he prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. <sup>8</sup> As they have done from the day, I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. <sup>9</sup> Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."
- Even though Samuel warned the people what having a king would be like
- They said in vv19-21  
<sup>19</sup> ..."No!" they said. "We want a king over us. <sup>20</sup> Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

<sup>21</sup> When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the LORD. <sup>22</sup> The LORD answered, "Listen to them and give them a king."

So, what they and us need to remember is: God's ways are not our ways - and even when God gives people what they ask for - it may not turn out as humans think - God is still on the throne - He's still in control - and He will accomplish His plans and purposes (Romans 8:28)

As we hit our passage today, from 1 Samuel chapter 9 [Please turn there now] We see how God is in control of the selection process of the King, the people have asked for.

And I'd like to make 3 points.

[PowerPoint 3-3 points]

1. God cares about every detail
2. God reveals His plans
3. God confirms His plans

**God cares about every detail (9:1-14)**

First then, *God cares about every detail*

[PowerPoint 4-Detail]

That's in verses 1 to 14 of chapter 9

- God reveals the family that the King will come from
- He identifies a man called Kish - a man of standing (v1)
- And Kish has a son called Saul - who is a head taller than anyone else (v2)

- From this we get the impression that Saul - would stand out as a military leader - and he appears to be just what the people are looking for
- We're told Saul's father has donkeys - which indicates he is wealthy
- Saul's father's donkeys are lost
- So, Saul is sent to find them
- There's no aristocracy in God's leadership - the leaders God chooses are just ordinary guys - King Saul looked for donkeys and King David tended sheep
- Saul is just an ordinary guy - he has a close relationship with his servant - and when they don't have any success in finding the donkeys - Saul is inclined not to keep searching (in v5) - in case his Father is concerned about Saul and his servant being lost - never mind the donkeys (v5)
- However, Saul is still open to advice - when his servant suggests seeking a man of God (v6) - Saul agrees
- It's important that a future king is prepared to seek advice and to seek guidance from God (v6)
- And see the attention to detail - in v7 - Saul is even concerned that he doesn't have an appropriate gift to give to the man of God
- Saul's relationship with his servant is so good that the servant is happy to give the gift to the man of God - of a quarter of a shekel of silver - out of his own pocket (v8)
- We're even given the detail that prophets used to be called seers in Israel (v9)
- As Saul and his servant went to the town where the man of God was

- It just so happened - there were some young women (v11) - drawing water and they tell Saul and his servant - where the man of God is (v12)
- We even get an insight into the worship practice of the day (v13) - and it just so happens - there is a sacrifice about to happen - and it's basically a fellowship offering (from Leviticus 7) - where a sacrifice is made to God - the sacrifice must be done by the priest - which is the man of God - which is in fact - Samuel - and then the priest and the people can share in a meal together
- And it just so happens that the first-person Saul and his servant bump into - as they enter the town - is Samuel (v14) - the man of God

And so, we can see - God cares about every little detail

Lost donkeys - lead Saul to go looking - and he finds the man of God - Samuel - who himself has had a remarkable amount of details in his life - to bring him to meet Saul

Saul's "chance" meeting with Samuel - is going to reveal God's plan is more than just about finding lost donkeys!

(pause)

### **God reveals His plans (9:15-10:1)**

Which brings us to the second point - *God reveals His plans*

[PowerPoint 5-God's plan]

That's from verse 15 of chapter 9 through to verse 1 of chapter 10

In v15 to 17

We discover that God has already revealed to Samuel - that He (God) will send a man from the land of Benjamin - and Samuel is to anoint this man as ruler over

the people of Israel - and his mission will be to deliver the people from their arch enemy - the Philistines

Why is God doing this?

End of v16 - because God has heard the people crying out to Him - He is going to give the people what they want

But God is the one who chooses the King - and it's under His terms and conditions

And notice how God has brought Saul to Samuel right at the time of this sacrifice meal - and so Saul is invited to be a guest at this meal (v18 and 19)

And there's further revelation in v20

The lost donkeys have been found AND there is a great expectation and desire from all of Israel - that Saul - is just the sort of King the people have been looking for

Saul's response is very humble - v21 - he says he's from the smallest tribe of Israel - that's the tribe of Benjamin - and his clan is the least in the whole tribe of Benjamin

God doesn't always use or choose the biggest or the most popular

Samuel shows that the choice of Saul is God's will by making Saul the guest of honour at the meal - with a place at the head of the table - and a special portion of meat put aside especially for Saul (verses 22-24)

Then in private - in v1 of chapter 10 - Samuel anoints Saul's head with oil - to reveal that it's God's plan that Saul will be king over God's people.

God chooses the King - not the people!

(pause)

## God confirms His plans (10:2-8)

The third point is - *God confirms His plans*

[PowerPoint 6-confirm]

That's in v2-v8 of chapter 10

After the anointing of Saul as King -

God confirms his plan to have Saul as King - by giving a message through Samuel of 3 confirmation signs

- 1<sup>st</sup> confirmation sign - In V2-Saul will meet 2 men who will confirm his father's donkeys are found - and that Saul's father is now worried about his son being lost
- 2<sup>nd</sup> confirmation sign - in V3-4- Saul will meet 3 men who will offer him 2 loaves of bread which he will accept
- 3<sup>rd</sup> confirmation sign - in V5-6 - Saul will meet a procession of prophets - playing musical instruments and prophesying - and Saul will prophesy with them - because Saul will receive the Holy Spirit - and he will be changed into a different person (v6)

Samuel also confirms - that once these 3 confirmation signs have been fulfilled - God will be with Saul - in v7

So, we can see there have been a remarkable series of events to bring about God's choice of Saul as king. God is in control!

## Baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:21-22)

[PowerPoint 7-Heading]

Now if we fast forward 1000 years or so after King Saul

We come to another King

King Jesus

And we come to the time of Jesus' baptism

In our NT passage from Luke 3:21-22 [[Please turn there now](#)]

We see in the same way as Saul's selection as King

[PowerPoint 7a-detail]

**First - God cares about every detail**

Jesus is baptized - not because he needs to be [He doesn't need to be baptized to show His sins are washed away - as He is perfect] - but Jesus is baptized to symbolize that His ministry - is to wash people clean of their sins - by His blood on the cross - and to show that His mission is make disciples - by baptizing them and teaching them.

Jesus is baptized by his cousin, John - born just a few months before Jesus.

Details are important to God

[PowerPoint 7b-reveal]

**Second - God always reveals His plans** - God the Father reveals who Jesus is - His beloved Son. And God's plan - which was revealed at Jesus' birth - is for Jesus to deliver people from their arch enemy - their arch enemy being SIN and REBELLION against God - and deliver people from the punishment their sin and rebellion deserves - by taking people's punishment upon Himself on the cross.

God's plan is for Jesus to find people lost from God - not lost donkeys!

[PowerPoint 7c-confirm]

**Third - God always confirms His plans** - God the Father confirms Jesus' ministry by anointing Him (like Saul) - not with oil - but with the 3rd person of the Trinity - the Holy Spirit - to say Jesus' ministry is a spirit filled ministry - and God confirms His love for His Son - and that He is Well Pleased with His Son and His ministry - to save the world

**Application**

[PowerPoint 8-Heading]

To tie this all together then

How does this apply to us today?

[PowerPoint 8a-detail]

1. **God cares about every detail in our lives too** - and He does things in His way, in His time and often in amazing ways - with great attention to detail. Not with coincidences but amazing God incidents and providence - and He's in sovereign control. If we all stopped for a moment - and looked at how God has brought us to the point we are at today. There's been so many details - that had to happen - meeting certain people - events that have happened - good, bad and indifferent - that have us in the circumstances we're in right now. Even though God is the awesome creator God of the Heavens and the Earth - he cares about the little details as well

[PowerPoint 8b-reveals]

2. **God reveals His plan to us** in His Holy Word - to save people from sin and death - through Jesus. He also reveals His plans for our lives too - as we pray and talk to Him - sometimes He says No - other times He says Yes - and other times He says Wait - not yet!

[PowerPoint 8c-confirms]

3. **God confirms His plans for us** - by anointing us too. He anoints us with the Holy Spirit as we become believers in Jesus to show He has chosen us to be one of His children. And then the Holy Spirit living inside us - prompts us, guides us, leads us, corrects us, advises us - and gives us understanding of His Word. The Holy Spirit also equips us for our mission which is the same mission Jesus gave His disciples - to go and make disciples.

Just as God confirmed his plan for Saul to be King by anointing him with the holy spirit which changed Saul in to a different person - in the same way - the Holy Spirit changes us into a different person too - so we understand that it is God's way and not our way that matters

### Challenge

Perhaps we all need to hit the pause button for a moment today - and reflect

[PowerPoint 9-Challenge]

Can we see how God cares about the details in our lives?

(pause)

Can we see how God reveals Jesus' rescue plan to us - and can we see how He reveals His plans for our lives too?

(pause)

Can we see that we have the confirmation sign of the Holy Spirit in our lives - are we listening to the Holy Spirit's life changing - prompting and leading - or are we ignoring it?

(pause)

## Conclusion

[PowerPoint 10-Conclusion]

Let me finish with a couple of verses from the prophet Isaiah 55:8-9

<sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"  
declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

We need to acknowledge that ultimately God is in control of our lives

And God's way is not necessarily our way... and God's way is always the better way!

Let's pray...