

When God Leads Us to His Plans for Us

1 Samuel 9:1-10:14

Looking for lost donkeys and finding something else

1 Samuel 9:6

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."*

1 Samuel 9:15-17

¹⁵ *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."*

1. In the last chapter, Israel demands for a king to lead her like her neighbouring nations. This chapter begins with Saul looking for his father's donkeys. Donkeys were worth much and an important asset during those days. Losing one is a very costly affair. Saul and his servant searched for many days without any success. Saul wanted to give up and go home but his servant advised him to seek the assistance of a well-known seer/prophet called Samuel.
2. It is pretty amazing when we consider the kind of circumstances that God would use to bring Saul to Samuel. Perhaps Saul would not have responded to a dream or divine encounter like Samuel. Saul had to be led in a very different way. He was not on a godly quest, rather he was looking for lost property. Saul would soon find out that the donkeys have found their way home, but God was not done with Him. God has appointed him to be a king over Israel.
3. How does God speak to us? What circumstances does He use to move us from where we are to where He is? Are we ready for the kind of conversation God wants to have with us?

Why do you say such things of me?

1 Samuel 9:19-21

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?”*

1 Samuel 10:1

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?”*

1. Samuel says to Saul the donkeys have been found but they have something more to discuss. Samuel then tells Saul that he has a special place among the people. Saul responded as one unworthy for the position (Like Gideon, Moses etc.): he was from the smallest tribe of Israel and from a humble family (1 Sam 9:21). Samuel did not respond to Saul's objection. Instead, he brings Saul to a banquet and gives him a place of honour among the people. The next day, Samuel anoints Saul as God's chosen ruler over Israel. Samuel's response to Saul's objection comes in a form of a question *“Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over his inheritance?”* (1 Samuel 10:1)
2. As mentioned, Saul started this journey looking for his father's donkey and now he stands before the prophet Samuel who tells him that 'Yahweh' has appointed him a leader over Israel. Saul has to stop thinking about the donkeys and start wrapping his head around what God has prepared for Him. This is not an easy thing to do. Yes, the things behind us are comfortable, familiar, and doable; but pursuing God's will is something entirely different. Like Saul, many of us feel unworthy for the task. We look at our qualifications, resources, and abilities to determine if we are capable for the task. God has only one thing to say us. *“Has not the Lord anointed you?”*
3. The people in the Old Testament did not receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as we have. The Holy Spirit was upon them but now the Holy Spirit makes His home in our hearts. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Through the power of God, the Spirit, we are transformed to be like Christ and empowered to do His work.

Meditate on the following verses:

Luke 4:18-19

¹⁸ *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,*

¹⁹ *to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”*

Luke 24:48-49

⁸ *You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”*

The Word of God is true and can be trusted because the Lord is true

1 Samuel 10:2-11

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.

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."

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?"

1. Samuel sent Saul away with very specific instructions as to what would happen. Look at the words of Samuel. He gives a very detailed description of what will take place. Two men near Rachel's tomb, a detailed description of what they would say to Saul. The second event has more details. A great tree, three men going up to worship God at Bethel, one will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, etc. What is the Lord doing here? He is helping Saul embrace the reality of what was happening to him. He is assuring Saul of His call.

V. 2	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?"'
Vv. 3-4	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.
Vv. 5-6	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.

2. In these narratives, God is showing Saul that He is a God who is with His people and He ordains their daily affairs.

Proverbs 16:9

⁹ In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.

Proverbs 20:24

²⁴ A person's steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand their own way?

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.

3. God draws Saul into His presence and the power of the Holy Spirit enabled him to prophesy. Saul now knows how the presence of Yahweh can transform a person and what it means to be a prophet, a person who receives the word of God. God was preparing Saul to be a king that would represent His rule over Israel.

Prayer

- Grace and wisdom to heed God's call
- Acknowledging that only God is able to equip and empower us for His work
- Seeking the presence and anointing of the Holy Spirit
- Grow in the ability to listen to God's word and discern His path for us
- Representing God well

Life Church

- A church dedicated to Prayer, Word and Worship
- Families – salvation
- Personal encounters
- Open doors – the surrounding community
- Deepen our love for one another and make us eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit
- Courage to speak the Gospel, stand for truth in our schools, marketplace and in our neighbourhoods
- Salvation of souls
- Impacting workplace and schools

Healing

- Elisa: chronic renal failure
- Suba
- Bro Harold (Connie & Mel's dad): mass in lungs
- Sis Lily (Jacq's mom): heart

Covid-19 Pandemic

- Protection
- Vaccine
- Those affected: sick, foreigners, poor & those who have lost their jobs

Malaysia

- Churches
- Leaders
- Unity