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All woman's choice, beautiful man in the city

1 Samuel 9

9:1 There was a Beniahite, whose name was Christ, the cousin of Aphiah, the great-grandson of Begolah, the grandson of Zerela, and the son of Abel. He is a mighty warrior . [or be a great fortune]

9:2 He had a son, named Salo, strong and handsome, and there was no Israelite like him. He was taller than the rest of the people.

Summary of 1 Samuel 9

At that time there was a man named Benjam, whose name was Kish. He was a man of wealth and fame, his father's name was Abiyeh, and his grandfather's name was Ciro. Saul, the son of Kish, was young, tall and handsome, more than any one of the Israelites.

One day, while looking for some of his father's donkeys, Saul came to the town of the prophet Samuel and asked to consult him on the whereabouts of the donkeys. Samuel told Saul that the donkey had been found, and then asked him and his servants to stay and eat and prepare to continue the journey in the morning. In the evening, Samuel spoke alone with Saul on his roof, told him the word of God, and told him that he would become king over all Israel.

The next morning, Saul told Samuel of his concerns that he was unworthy of this great position. Samuel comforts him and sends him home. However, before he left, Samuel anointed Saul king with a piece of anointing oil at his doorstep, signifying that he would be God's chosen leader.

Samuel then explained to Saul a series of miracles to encounter during his journey, and told him that he should understand and follow God's instructions when encountering them. When Saul left Samuel and returned home, his heart was filled with God's blessings and directions, and his faith was multiplied.

The Bible describes God's choice of Saul as king of Israel, largely because of the needs of the Israelites and God's plan. Here are some possible reasons:

The demands of the people: In 1 Samuel 8, the Israelites asked Samuel to appoint a king for them to imitate the nations. Although this was a sign of dissatisfaction with God's rule, God allowed such an arrangement and was willing to give a king to Israel.

Physical Appearance and Background: Saul is portrayed in appearance and physical background as tall and handsome, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. In the culture of the time, these qualities may have been seen as a proper image of the king. God sometimes uses outward characteristics to conform to people's expectations.

God's plan: Although Saul's later reign was not perfect, God may have valued his potential and ability to accomplish God's will when he chose him as king. In the early days, Saul's reign brought about Israel's victory and the overthrow of some hostile powers.

However, over time, Saul's disobedience and selfish behavior caused him to lose God's support, which eventually led God to turn to David. This shows that God chose Saul not because of his perfection, but because of God's plan and vision. Saul's story also became a lesson in the Bible, reminding people that God's choice was based on His wisdom, but that human obedience and faithfulness were still crucial.

Some of the accounts of King Saul's favor with God come primarily from the time he first became king. Here are some aspects of the Old Testament about Saul's pleasing God:

Humility and Discretion: In the early days of Saul's reign, he began as a humble and prudent leader. In 1 Samuel chapters 9-10, when the prophet Samuel proclaimed the throne to him, Saul showed humility and caution, even being humbled by his origins, and did not take the appointment lightly.

Fulfill God's commands: In 1 Samuel 10, God gave Saul a series of instructions through Samuel, including that he would receive God's Spirit and become king. Saul showed obedience to God in the early days and fulfilled God's commands. He was then called to defeat the Ammonites in a show of God's blessing.

Victory over Israel: Saul succeeded in defeating some of Israel's enemies, particularly the Ammonites, in the early years of his reign (1 Samuel 11). These victories were seen as God's help and support, showing that Saul was God's chosen King.

However, over time, Saul's disobedience and disobedience to God's commands led to God's displeasure with him. Saul's failure to fully fulfill God's instructions during a war against the Philistines drew God's condemnation, which eventually led God to turn to David as Israel's new king. Saul's story reminds us of the importance of obedience to God's will and humility.

In the Christian faith, Christians are seen as God's chosen and called people with a special identity and mission. This elective monarchy has deep roots in the Bible, encompassing faith in God, love for people, and a commitment to justice and truth.

First, Christians are God's chosen people, and this election is not based on outward characteristics or personal performance, but on God's grace and love. Ephesians 1:4 says, "Just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we might be holy and blameless before Him." This shows that Christians are chosen by God from all eternity in order to make them holy and acceptable before God.

Second, Christian monarchy is reflected in the model of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's chosen King, and His life on earth demonstrated love for poverty, affliction, and sinners. Christians are

called to follow Christ's example and live out love and righteousness in order to manifest the kingdom of God. Jesus' words, "You are the light of the world, and the city built on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14), emphasizing that Christian identity is the light of God's glory in the world.

Furthermore, Christian monarchy involves the pursuit of justice and truth. God calls Christians to be the salt and light of society and to participate in building a society of justice, compassion, and humility. This monarchy requires Christians to demonstrate God's values in all aspects of their lives and to bring God's love to the world.

In general, Christians are God's chosen monarchy, which is not only a privilege, but also a responsibility. Through faith, imitation of Christ, and participation in the building of society, Christians can witness God's glory in the world, become a medium of God's love and grace, and manifest God's chosen identity.

We pray together

Dear God,

We thank You for giving us the status of a monarch to be Your chosen people. Thank You for choosing us in Christ to be holy and blameless before You. Thank You for giving us the example of Jesus Christ, the King of righteousness, whose love and truth illuminate our lives.

We humble ourselves before You and acknowledge our limitations and inadequacies. Give us the wisdom and strength to faithfully fulfill our stewardship in Christ. Help us imitate Jesus' love and manifest Your truth and compassion in our words and actions.

Lead us to be Your salt and light in this world, participating in building a society of justice, compassion, and peace. Let our lives be a testimony to Your glory and draw people to know Your love and salvation.

Thank You for Your love and grace, and we pray in the name of Jesus. amen.

1 SAMUEL

CHAPTER 9

1Sa. 9:1 There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah of Benjamin.

1Sa. 9:2 He had a son named Saul, an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites — a head taller than any of the others.

1Sa. 9:3 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."

1Sa. 9:4 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.

1Sa. 9:5 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."

1Sa. 9:6 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."

1Sa. 9:7 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?"

1Sa. 9:8 The servant answered him again. "Look," he said, "I have a quarter of a shekel [That is, about 1/10 ounce (about 3 grams)] of silver. I will give it to the man of God so that he will tell us what way to take."

1Sa. 9:9 (Formerly in Israel, if a man went to enquire of God, he would say, "Come, let us go to the seer," because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.)

1Sa. 9:10 "Good," Saul said to his servant. "Come, let's go." So they set out for the town where the man of God was.

1Sa. 9:11 As they were going up the hill to the town, they met some girls coming out to draw water, and they asked them, "Is the seer here?"

1Sa. 9:12 "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.

1Sa. 9:13 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; afterwards, those who are invited will eat. Go up now; you should find him about this time."

1Sa. 9:14 They went up to the town, and as they were entering it, there was Samuel, coming towards them on his way up to the high place.

1Sa. 9:15 Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed this to Samuel:

1Sa. 9:16 "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him leader over my people Israel; he will deliver my people from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked upon my people, for their cry has reached me."

1Sa. 9:17 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."

1Sa. 9:18 Saul approached Samuel in the gateway and asked, “Would you please tell me where the seer’s house is?”

1Sa. 9:19 “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 let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart.

1Sa. 9:20 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 all your father’s family?”

1Sa. 9:21 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?”

1Sa. 9:22 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.

1Sa. 9:23 Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the piece of meat I gave you, the one I told you to lay aside.”

1Sa. 9:24 So the cook took up the leg 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.

1Sa. 9:25 After they came down from the high place to the town, Samuel talked with Saul on the roof of his house.

1Sa. 9:26 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.

1Sa. 9:27 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 awhile, so that I may give you a message from God.”

Chapter 9 in the book of 1 Samuel introduces the character of Saul, who will become the first king of Israel. Some important verses in this chapter include:

- 1 Samuel 9:1-2: "There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people."
- 1 Samuel 9:15-17: "Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel: 'Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the

Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me.' When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, 'Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people.'"

These verses set the stage for Saul's introduction as the future king of Israel and the one who will deliver the people from their enemies, the Philistines.

1 Samuel chapter 9 introduces us to Saul, who becomes the first king of Israel. This chapter explores themes of divine providence, humility, and the unfolding of God's plan in unexpected ways.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the concept of divine providence. Saul, a young man from the tribe of Benjamin, is sent by his father to search for lost donkeys. In the course of his search, he meets Samuel, who is God's chosen prophet and the one who will anoint Saul as king. Unbeknownst to Saul, God orchestrates these events to fulfill His plan and to position Saul as the future king of Israel.

This chapter reminds us that God is actively at work in the details of our lives, even in seemingly mundane circumstances. It teaches us that God's providence can lead us to unexpected encounters, opportunities, and callings. It calls us to trust in His guiding hand, even when we may not fully comprehend His purposes or the significance of the events unfolding around us.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 9 highlights the importance of humility. When Saul and his servant arrive in the city where Samuel resides, they seek his guidance in finding the lost donkeys. Samuel, who is aware of God's plan for Saul, welcomes him and offers him hospitality. Saul, despite being chosen for a significant role as king, displays humility and acknowledges his own unworthiness and insignificance.

This chapter emphasizes the value of humility in our own lives. It reminds us that no matter what positions or roles we may be called to, we should approach them with a humble heart, recognizing our reliance on God's guidance and grace. It challenges us to set aside pride and self-importance, instead seeking to serve God and others with humility and gratitude.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 9 reveals the unfolding of God's plan in unexpected ways. Samuel, as the prophet and representative of God, anoints Saul as the future king. This turn of events surprises both Saul and his servant, as they did not anticipate Saul's encounter with Samuel and the revelation of his destiny. It demonstrates that God's plan often surpasses our expectations and operates beyond our limited understanding.

This chapter encourages us to trust in God's wisdom and timing, even when His plan unfolds in ways we may not comprehend or anticipate. It reminds us that God's ways are higher than our ways, and His plans are perfect. It calls us to embrace a posture of faith, surrendering our own expectations and submitting to God's greater purpose for our lives.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 9 brings forth reflections on divine providence, humility, and the unfolding of God's plan. It reminds us of God's active involvement in the details of our lives, the importance of approaching our roles with humility, and the need to trust in God's wisdom and timing. May we embrace the lessons from this chapter, allowing God to guide our steps and surrendering to His greater purpose for our lives.