

Embracing the Unexpected Call

In 1st Samuel 9 we meet Saul, a young man from the tribe of Benjamin—the most handsome and promising among his people. His story begins in the everyday, almost mundane circumstance of searching for his lost donkeys. Saul’s father, Kish, sends him out with a servant to find them. As they travel through various regions, it becomes clear that even a routine errand can lead to unexpected turns in life.

I find this part of Saul’s story especially relatable. How many times have I set out on what seemed like an ordinary task only to have God guide me toward something far greater? Saul’s initial concern was practical—“Where are the donkeys?”—but soon he finds himself on the path to a divine destiny.

Along the way, Saul and his servant hear about an honorable man, a prophet (or “seer” as they were called in those days), in a nearby city. Although they had little to offer—only a small portion of silver—they decide to seek his guidance. Their journey reminds me that sometimes, even when we feel we have nothing much to give, God can use our humble beginnings to lead us to His plans.

When Saul finally reaches the city, he is directed to the prophet Samuel. What’s truly remarkable is that Samuel had been informed by the Lord the day before:

“Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man out of the land of Benjamin, and you are to anoint him to be captain over my people Israel...” 1st Samuel 9:17 (NKJV)

Imagine the wonder of realizing that a simple search for lost donkeys was the starting point of a divine appointment! When Samuel sees Saul, he declares, ***“Behold, this is the man about whom I spoke”*** (1st Samuel 9:17, NKJV). Saul’s encounter with Samuel is both humbling and life-changing—a moment when an ordinary young man is chosen to lead an entire nation.

This narrative challenges me to reflect on my own life:

- **Am I open to unexpected callings?**
Like Saul, my journey may begin with simple, everyday tasks. Yet, God often uses these moments to steer me toward His greater purpose.
- **Do I recognize God’s timing?**
Saul’s encounter wasn’t planned by him—it was orchestrated by God. It reminds me to trust that God’s timing is perfect, even when I don’t fully understand where my path is leading.
- **Am I willing to step into the unknown?**
Accepting a divine call often means leaving behind what’s familiar. Saul had to move from searching for donkeys to accepting a role that would define the future of his people. We, too, are invited to step out in faith, even when the next step seems unclear.

Saul’s journey from searching for his lost donkeys to meeting Samuel is a powerful reminder that God can turn even our most ordinary moments into extraordinary opportunities. His life teaches me that God’s plans are often revealed when I least expect them—and that I must be willing to listen, step forward, and trust in His guidance.

07-Bible Reading Study Notes

1st Samuel Chapter 09

May this story encourage you, as it does me, to remain open to God's unexpected callings in your life. Even when the task at hand seems simple, remember that God can use it to set you on a path toward a greater purpose.