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November 27, 2016

# 1 SAMUEL 9-10

1 Samuel Series

Let's bow our hearts before the Lord and come before Him to pray, and then we'll look at His word today.

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we come before you humbly recognizing that you do amazing things in our world and things that are beyond our scope and experience. Trusting you every day is a challenge for many of us and we have experiences right around us that make that difficult sometimes. So Lord, I pray that you would soften our hearts and give us a peace that we need. Draw us close to you and give us that security and that fortress of a rock that we can come and stand on you and rely on you. Lord, we realize that our world is a broken place. We see hurting people all around us and we want to be a part of that solution. We want you to use us. We want you to anoint us. We want you to fill us with your Spirit. We want you to empower us to reach out and touch those people that are hurting. We pray that you would give us opportunity to see right around those needs and ways that we can participate in people's lives with your grace. Lord, give us such a burden to do that that we have boldness and confidence in the message that you've given us that we can share with others.

Heavenly Father, now we're going to open the word that you've given to us. Thank you for giving us the Bible. As we open it we ask that you would teach us from it and guide our thinking and our hearts. Change what we believe today a little bit, just those small things that get in the way, those false beliefs that cause us to have bad attitudes or cause us to mistreat people or be selfish. Change our beliefs. Help us know a little bit more about what it means to serve you. We ask in Jesus' name, amen.

I think this concept of salvation is often misunderstood by people. We say to people, "You need to come to Christ. You need to trust Christ as your Lord and Savior." It's like what we're saying to people is you need to initiate with God because God is waiting for you to do so. As He's waiting for you to do so, we need to initiate.

Now I do believe all of that is true, but it's missing the first step. If we miss the first step then we miss some of the power of the salvation message. Because it is true that all of us need to come before God and initiate with Him. But the reality is that God initiated with us first. We need to understand that's the first step. When Christ came, when God picked us out, He initiated with us, He chose us. Christ died for me. Christ invites me to have a personal relationship with Him. God wants to empower me. It's like He's giving the invitation. So when we initiate with God it's not like He's hidden up there somewhere and we're trying to find Him. It's like He's initiated with

us and we're receiving that invitation. We're saying, "Yes, God. I want to respond to you." We call that thing that God does the call. It's the doctrine of the calling. God is calling us to come to Him for salvation, but He's also calling us to give our whole hearts to Him and serve Him 100%.

So let me tell you if you're here today and you've never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I want you to know that God has placed the invitation out there for you. It's out there for you. You're not initiating with God; you're responding to God and saying, "God, yes, I want to accept you as my Lord and Savior." That's what salvation is all about.

Today we're going to see a story about how God is working behind the scenes to bring a message of calling to a man. We're going to see that take place. We're going to see all the pieces that go around it. I hope that you'll be inspired today to see that God is calling you and me out of the mundane things in our lives to do something special for Him.

In 1 Samuel 9:1 it reads this way: *There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bekorath, the son of Aphiah of Benjamin. Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else.*

Here's a guy whose name is Saul. He has a lot going for him. He's a good-looking guy. He's tall. It reminds me some of the people here at Calvary Chapel, good-looking and tall. He had a lot of things going on.

We're told two things in the passage. First of all that he's good-looking and tall draws attention to his appearance. He's a nice looking guy. We know that right off from the beginning because there's going to be a contrast made later on in this book that God is interested in the heart of the person. Samuel later on was more interested in the appearance of a person, so then we have that famous verse where it says *man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart*. So that contrast will be made later. But it starts right here in this passage where we learn about Saul. He had some good things going for him.

It also says he's from the tribe of Benjamin. That's going to be important. Every Israelite, every Jewish person wants to know what tribe they're from because that tribe gives them an identity of who they are. But in this case, Benjamin is in the smallest tribe. That's going to play a part in this story as Saul hears about this message for him. So keep those two things in mind already as we're learning and setting the stage for the story that's about to take place.

Verse 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."*

This is a map of Israel. You see the Dead Sea. If you zoom back out we would see way up at the top the Sea of Galilee. This is Judah down here. Jerusalem is somewhat in the middle of the picture there. There's a dotted line that really illustrates the wandering around that Saul is going to do to find the donkeys.

Verse 4 says – *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.*

*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.”* I’m wondering when are they going to think about that. Here these guys are doing this errand, they’re trying to find the donkeys. It’s three days later, they haven’t found the donkeys and at some point parents are going to be worried. So he says, “We better go back.”

Verse 6 says – *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.”*

Now I want for a moment to jump ahead in this story so that you can appreciate the verse that we’re in right now. If we go a little bit ahead in the story we’re going to see that Saul is going to be anointed as king today in this story, in this passage that we’re reading. But there’s this divine appointment that takes place between Saul and between Samuel. God is orchestrating the events and preparing the events to take place so that they will come together.

I would suggest that in our lives there are no accidents. We have divine appointments continually. You are here this morning not by accident. You are here by divine appointment and I don’t know why. Maybe it’s to hear this message, but maybe it’s to connect with someone else here. Maybe God has something to say to you through someone, not necessarily me, but someone else in this room. I don’t know why God has brought you here today, but I want you to see here that there is a divine appointment being formed.

As it’s being formed, we have Saul who’s involved in the mundane things of life – donkey duty. Here he is trying to find the donkeys and he’s wandering all over to find the donkeys. He has no idea that God is going to step in and invade his life and call him to be the king of Israel. He has no idea that that’s going to take place.

So I want to suggest that one application here is that we cannot get discouraged in the mundane. You might be in the mundane of changing baby diapers, or you might be in the mundane of doing paperwork at work, or you might be in the mundane of doing chores in one way or another. Recognize that God speaks to us in the midst of the mundane. God often calls us to greater things in the midst of that. That’s exactly what’s going to happen to Saul.

Verse 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?”*

*The servant answered him again. “Look,” he said, “I have a quarter of a shekel of silver. I will give it to the man of God so that he will tell us what way to take.” (Formerly in Israel, if someone went to inquire of God, they would say, “Come, let us go to the seer,” because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.)*

Let me just pause for a minute because I just want to make a quick application here. The seer was a prophet known as a seer. Why? Because they could see into life situations. They could see what was going on. God revealed things to the seer, or the prophet, and so they knew what was going on in the situation.

I want to suggest that today God allows us to see things that other people don't see. In a real sense, you and I are seers. We might not be prophets, but we're seers in the sense that we put on spiritual glasses. We look at life differently. When something is happening in the world, we say, "Wow. I wonder what God is doing in that situation." What happens to you when you hear an event take place in the world? What do you think about in the midst of that? I would suggest as Christians one of our thoughts is, "I wonder what God is doing there. I wonder what the Christians are doing in that situation," if it's a news event somewhere else. Or if it's in our own lives, we're saying, "I wonder what God wants to do in my own life? What is God doing in the situation?" We are seers in the sense that we can see what God is doing because we are connected to His heart.

So as I pray at the beginning today, "Lord, thank you for this day." I don't know if maybe this happens to you, but sometimes when we're with people they pray, "Lord, thank you for this day," as if they're kind of introducing their prayer. That used to bother me because it's a like a rote prayer. "Lord, thank you for this day, " and then they go on to whatever they're going to say. That's kind of what they put on at the beginning.

It doesn't bother me anymore because now do you know what that means for me? When someone says, "Lord, thank you for this day," I immediately think, "Yes Lord, I thank you for this day because I don't know what's going to happen in this day and I don't know what the challenges are going to be that I'm going to face in this day. But I know you and you know the future of this day and you know what's going to happen on this day. I'm connected to you, so I can trust in you. So today is the day that the Lord made and I'm going to rejoice in it." That's what it means when we say, "Lord, thank you for this day." We're looking forward to what God is going to do because He's creating these divine appointments in life.

Verse 10 – *"Good," Saul said to his servant. "Come, let's go." So they set out for the town where the man of God was.*

*As they were going up the hill to the town, they met some young women coming out to draw water, and they asked them, "Is the seer here?"*

Watch how God is working in this situation because we get to see all sides. In life today we don't get to see all sides most of the time. We get to see one side of the situation and we don't get to see all of the picture. In this case we're seeing a number of pictures at the same time and God is going to use these young women to show the direction.

*"Is the seer here," they asked the women.*

*"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. 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; afterward, those who are invited will eat. Go up now; you should find him about this time.*”

*They went up to the town, and as they were entering it, there was Samuel, coming toward them on his way up to the high place.*

We are about to see a divine encounter take place in this situation. God is preparing Saul through donkey duty. He’s preparing a prophet who’s available and ready to share the message. He’s using ordinary people to accomplish His plan. In fact the prophet Samuel already knew that Saul was coming. He had been told about this through a word for God that this was going to happen, which we read about in verse 15.

*Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed this to Samuel: “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.”*

Life isn’t just about me and what’s going on around me. When I start thinking on a different level, I start asking the question, “What is God doing in other people’s lives that I’m ready to meet? What is God doing in life situations?”

You never know who you’re going to meet. That’s why I like to take those little business cards that we have for Calvary Chapel Living Hope that have [truelife.org](http://truelife.org) on the back that allows people to ask difficult questions and have video answers. You never know who you’re going to meet. You could pull one of those out at the grocery store. You could pull one of those out as you’re waiting in line at the DMV. You can pull one of those out at the gas station or anywhere at a restaurant. Because we don’t know what God is doing in their lives. But it may be that this moment is a divine encounter.

Leaving a business card may be just a way for them to pick it up, take a look at it, because right now they’re praying. Maybe someone is praying, “Lord, I don’t even know you. But if you’re out there, will you reveal yourself to me,” and then someone has come along and dropped one of those business cards. They go, “Wow, this is an answer to prayer,” and you may never know. You may never know what God did. God is at work creating divine encounters continually and we’re a part of that. It’s powerful.

Verse 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.”*

*Saul approached Samuel in the gateway and asked, “Would you please tell me where the seer’s house is?”*

*“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.”* So go eat with me up there and in the morning I’ll tell you everything.

But he gives him a preview of what he's going to say. Verse 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?*”

Now that last phrase means (and Saul must get it here) that you're going to somehow rescue the people. I don't know if he knows he's going to be a king yet, but at least he knows he's being called up for his country. You are being drafted is what he's saying somehow. God has called you to be a leader here and you're going to do something. So basically Saul is coming and saying, “Do you know where the seer is?” and Samuel says, “I'm the guy. I'm going to have this meal with you and after the meal then in the morning I'm going to share with you all that's in your heart and I'm going to tell you some things that are important. First that your donkeys are safe, and, second, you're needed by your country.”

Now Saul has a self-confidence issue. Watch this. This is fascinating to me how God chooses ordinary people to do his work. Notice Saul's answer in verse 21. It says – *“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?”*

See, Saul has an assumption. His assumption is this: that God only uses popular people or people with a pedigree. I want to suggest that God uses all kinds of people. The world tends to evaluate people based on looks, intelligence, and wealth. I'm sure that there are a lot of wealthy people who are Christians. You don't have to be wealthy to be used by God. There are a lot of intellectual or smart Christians, but you don't have to be intellectual to be used by God. There are a lot of good-looking people who are Christians. A lot of them are sitting in this room. But you don't have to be good-looking to be used by God.

In fact years ago I came across an acrostic with three letters that indicate who God uses that I want to pass onto you today because I think they'll be helpful to you. The letters are F-A-T, spelling fat. So God uses FAT Christians. The letters represent this: faithful, available, and teachable.

Faithful has the idea that the person is reliable. They do the right thing. They are trustworthy. They are responsible. They stay true to God and His word. Faithful.

But there are a lot of people that are faithful that stay true to God's word who aren't used by God. Did you know that? It's because they're not available. They are too busy. So if there's a divine appointment happening and they're running through, they've got to get to wherever they've got to be and they miss the divine appointment that may have been an interruption in their life. Often interruptions are God's way of getting our attention. So if we always look at interruptions with irritation, we sometimes miss what God has for us. So we must be available to see what God is doing in a situation and available to act when we see that availability take place.

The third thing (of faithful, available, and teachable) is the idea of being willing to expand our horizons. God might be willing to do something new that we didn't expect. God might want to use me in a situation to grow a piece of my character that doesn't exist very strongly now. Being

teachable is so important because God wants to expand us. He wants to grow us in our lives. Often the experiences that we're going through now are like that.

I don't think Saul knew this at first, but God chose him and God is going to use him and work in his life and transform him in some great ways. Watch what happens to this guy. It's interesting to me that when the people asked for a king there was like this disappointment in Samuel's heart. It seems like it's almost second best for God. This isn't what I designed, but if the people want it, I'm going to do it. So God fully steps into the picture. I'm going to give them every chance that I have. God is going to do so much in this picture to set Saul up to be the godly person he needs to be. I like it that God does that because even people with poor self-confidence can be wholly used by God and is setting that up for Saul. Watch how it happens in verse 22 and following.

*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. Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the piece of meat I gave you, the one I told you to lay aside.”*

*So the cook took up the thigh 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.*

This reminds me of a personal story of mine. When we lived in Kenya we decided on that Christmas day that we would go celebrate Christmas with a Kenyan family. So we packed up all our stuff in the morning and they asked us to bring the main dish. The main dish was a ram that we bought. So I went down to the village and bought a ram. I took a Kenyan guy with me. We went down and bought this ram. So now I'm carrying this ram. He has horns on him and I put him in my van on some plastic in case he makes a mess.

I'm bringing the main dish to the dinner at this Christmas dinner. So we drive out in our van to this place and they could hardly wait for us to get there. They're eager. We arrive there maybe nine o'clock in the morning or something. They're eager to get the ram because they have to start the preparation. This is really fresh dinner, I'm telling you. So we bring this ram and they quickly get the ram and I helped kill the ram. Then we skinned the ram. After we skinned it, they cleaned out all the intestines and stuff (much of which they eat later). They clean all of that out and then they cook the meat. So there's a lot of work that has to be done.

When you don't have refrigeration then you have to realize when you're cooking meat you don't have meat every day. You can't kill a cow unless you can have everybody eat it. A cow is for a village.

Now there's thirty people eating here. Maybe this is a sheep or a ram like we ate. When you eat, you eat a pound or two of meat. You don't get to eat it very often. These guys ate so much meat I couldn't believe it. That's the picture we have here. The picture that as Samuel says to the cook, “Hey, get the thigh part that I told you to leave aside for the guest and bring that out now and put it in front of him.” It's a symbol of royalty that he's going to get the best part because the thigh is the tender meat that's being offered him. He gets the whole thigh of the sheep. That's a big piece

of meat. Surely he can't eat it all, I don't know. But it's being put in front of him. It's a picture of royalty, the king's portion.

There's a contrast being made here in part I think between Saul who is trying to find donkeys and Samuel who is confident in the word of the Lord and ready for what God is going to do. I want to be like Samuel where I can see what's going on and God is using me in the midst of the picture. But I also want to be like Saul who is receiving the blessing and the anointing of God in this passage.

Verse 25 – *After they came down from the high place to the town, Samuel talked with Saul on the roof of his house. 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. 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 for a while, so that I may give you a message from God."* I want you to stand here and listen to the message.

Sometimes that's just what we need to do. Let's stay here for a moment. Let's pause for a moment. I have a message from God for you. That's what he's saying. Sometimes we have to pause in order to hear the message. That's what's happening here. He's going to get this message. He's going to tell him, "Hey, I know you're worried about your father not finding you and so on, but I want you to stand still because God has a word for you that He wants you to understand. It's not about donkeys. It's about being anointed as God's king of Israel. Stand still. I want to anoint you."

I personally pray for and want the anointing of God in my life. I want God to anoint me as a pastor. I want God to anoint me when I stand here and teach on Sunday morning. I want God to anoint me as a father and as a grandfather. I want God to anoint me in my business. I want God to anoint me in everything that I do. So when I see that word *anointing* here and what God is going to do in chapter 10, I'm very intrigued and my ears perk up because I want the anointing in my own heart.

Chapter 10 – *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? 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?'*

*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. They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them.*

*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 (so we've got a worship session with prophets coming down), and they will be prophesying. 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.*” You just have to pause there. He’s saying to Saul you’re going to be changed into a different person. It’s amazing what God can do to a person. *Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.*

That is so interesting to me. I told you I want to be anointed in my life. But I also want to be Spirit-led. Those are two very different things. Anointed by God and Spirit-led. That means empowered by the Spirit, driven by the Spirit, let by the Spirit, yielded to the Spirit of God. I want to be Spirit-filled.

Cindy is visiting today and she says after the worship the Spirit of God is here or something along that line. I appreciate that. Because that’s what I pray for about our worship service that it would be led by the Spirit of God.

But notice the next verse. Once these things are fulfilled, once you’re anointed and once you’re Spirit-filled then notice he says – *Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.*

I think discovering God’s will sometimes isn’t as complicated as we make it out to be. Maybe what we need to do is focus on being anointed by God and Spirit-filled. Then anything you do is fine because you’re Spirit-filled and anointed by God. Then just *do whatever your hand finds to do*. If you’re now Spirit-filled then you’re not going to yell at your husband now. Now that you’re Spirit-filled you’re not going to make decisions to go back to that addiction. Now you’re anointed and you’re Spirit-filled. So *do whatever your hand finds to do* because God is in the midst of that and God is going to do something powerful.

That is a pretty simple description of determining God’s will, but I really like it because it describes what I think is said in Proverbs 3:5-6. You know these verses. It says – *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Make that your first objective to be anointed, Spirit-filled. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him* (and then what happens), *then he shall direct your paths*. In other words, it’s just going to flow. It’s going to happen. The first thing we must do is come before God and bow our hearts and experience that personal revival of being anointed by God and Spirit-filled. You remember that verse earlier – *God changed his heart*. Wow.

Verse 8. Now we’re going to read what happened. *“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.”* So he’s already been anointed, but he doesn’t know what to do.

Verse 9 – *As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.* It’s amazing what God can do to a person’s heart.

If your heart has been damaged by hurt and pain you need to know that God can change that heart. If you’ve got a lot of anger in your life, you need to know that God can change that anger. If your heart is consumed to be attracted to the wrong things, you’ve got to know that God can

change that heart. God changed this guy's heart. What a beautiful picture of what God does for us as Christians. As Christians our eyes are opened and we can see this.

There are so many people in our world today that need changed hearts. Saul has a self-confidence issue and God's going to turn him into a person who has a heart that follows Him. That's where his self-confidence really needs to come from – from the Lord and what God wants to do inside the heart.

Verse 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. 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?”* The power of the Spirit of God has the ability to radically change a person so that when other people look at this person they say she's different, he's different.

*A man who lived there answered, “And who is their father?” So it became a saying: “Is Saul also among the prophets?” After Saul stopped prophesying, he went to the high place.*

*Now Saul's uncle asked him and his servant, “Where have you been?”*

*“Looking for the donkeys,” he said. “But when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel.”*

*Saul's uncle said, “Tell me what Samuel said to you.”*

*Saul replied, “He assured us that the donkeys had been found.” But he did not tell his uncle what Samuel had said about the kingship.*

I still feel like it seems like he lacks this self-confidence about what God is doing. He's embarrassed to talk about it. His confidence level is low, but that is not going to diminish his ability to serve the Lord in a powerful way. When we recognize our own weakness, we recognize our own frailty, then we are empowered to do something for the Lord in ways that are greater than whatever else. We magnify God's presence because it's not us that people are seeing. It's God they're seeing in the midst of that.

Verse 17 – *Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the Lord at Mizpah and said to them, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.’ But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your disasters and calamities. And you have said, ‘No, appoint a king over us.’ So now present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and clans.”*

*When Samuel had all Israel come forward by tribes, the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. Lots were like drawing the straws. Everyone got one and they would draw them. Either that or they were casting these stones and they come up in a particular way. Isn't it amazing, twelve different tribes that cast the lots and Benjamin was chosen. God is obviously working in this situation here.*

*Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was taken. Finally Saul son of Kish was taken. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found.*

Everybody else is eagerly watching. Who's going to be the king? They're rolling the dice or whatever it is to find out what's going on and people are stepping back, and now we have one guy left, Saul, son of Kish drawn by lot. Where is the guy? *When they looked for him, he was not to be found.*

*So they inquired further of the Lord, "Has the man come here yet?"*

*And the Lord said, "Yes, he has hidden himself among the supplies, among the baggage." Oh man. The guy lacks so much confidence he's over there hiding because he knows what's about to happen. So he's hiding among the baggage.*

The word for baggage in Hebrew includes a number of things. It can be implements, it could be weapons, it could be clothing, it could be carriages, it could be furniture. It includes the things we carry around like baggage. But I would suggest that Saul had some additional baggage, like we do. Those things that we carry around inside of us that weigh us down in our hearts, or those beliefs that we have about life or self that hinder us from serving God fully. That's the baggage that I think God is rescuing him from spiritually as they're trying to find him among the baggage physically because God wants to do something powerful.

You could maybe fill in this blank. God could use me more if I weren't hiding among [fill in the blank], this baggage. What prevents you from being used more by God? I think you'll find the same kinds of things that Saul is experiencing in his life.

*Verse 23 – They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people."*

*Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!" Samuel explained to the people the rights and duties of kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the Lord. Then Samuel dismissed the people to go to their own homes.*

*Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched.*

This is a model for leadership that we see in the Bible regularly. God raises up a leader that the people acknowledge this leader, as they did in this passage. But he also brings alongside of them valiant men to support him, and then they go out and they lead. You can see it here in this passage. You can see it with Moses. You could see it with Paul the apostle (the missionary Paul in the New Testament). You could see it in a small group in Calvary Chapel Living Hope. God raises up a leader. He brings people that say yes, we want to follow this leader. He brings valiant men and women alongside to help lead. That's God's plan for leadership. It's the most effective leadership plan that's out there and we see it demonstrated right here.

*Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched." But some scoundrels said, "How can this fellow save us?" They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent.*

God is working in Saul's life. Saul is going to have all the potential in the world to do what's right. He's anointed, He's Spirit-filled. He's surrounded by valiant men whose hearts have also been touched by the Lord. He's got people who are saying long live the king. He's got everything that he needs to lead strongly. We're going to learn more about how he responds to that and how he handles situations.

I would suggest that God is looking for Sauls in life – people who are willing to respond to Him. He's looking for heroes. He's looking for heroes among those who are heroes in the small things of life. Those who are faithful to take care of their family. Those who are faithful to take care in their business or their personal life. He's looking for heroes among a group of people who are available, who are teachable.

I like this verse in 2 Chronicles 16:9 – *For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro through the whole earth, to show himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect for him.* God is looking for leaders. God is looking for people who are willing to be FAT Christians, I would suggest. People who are willing to dedicate themselves and be open to what God might do. We don't have to have all the confidence in the world that we can do everything. We don't have to do everything. God can do everything. We just have to be available to be used by God.

I trust that God will use that in your heart this morning. What does God want to do with you? Is there some baggage holding you back? God wants to anoint us. He wants to fill us with His Spirit. He wants to provide us with opportunities to lead in ways that we may never have done before.

Let's pray together. Would you stand with me?

[PRAYER] Lord, I thank you that you are a God of second chances. I know that there are some people today here that need those second chances. So we ask that you would grant them. Lord, we know that you are a God of forgiveness. You are a God who empowers us. You tell Timothy not to let people look down on his youthfulness. We have young people here that need to serve you and want to do that. We ask that you would take them and use them mightily for your power and for your message. Lord, we thank you for your Spirit's power that comes to live inside of us, that changes our hearts. I'm sure that there are people here today that need their hearts changed in one way or another. So Lord, we ask for your grace and your blessing on each one of us now. In Jesus' name, amen.