

God's Unfolding Providence

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1 Samuel 9:1-27

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Where the Storyteller has taken us:

- Samuel told by God to *'obey their voice, make them a king'*^{8:22}
- 9:1 is a major transition *there was a man...* like 1:1-2

The Son of Kish

- Saul from the tribe of Benjamin, undistinguished family
- Benjamin, smallest tribe, last of Jacob's 12 sons
- Saul's name - 'asked for' or 'dedicated'. Hannah's prayer 'lent'^{1:28}
- Saul was worldly handsome². Could have been "Mr. Israel"

A Series of Ordinary Events

- common event - finding the donkeys³
- Saul & servant go on an adventure⁴⁻⁵
- land of Zuph - Samuel's great-great-great grandfather^{1:28}

Some Observations from the Story

- Saul shows respect & concern for his father
- Saul was willing to inquire of God's prophet when prompted

Apply: *there are no matters of life so trivial that we should not seek God's counsel through prayer & study of the Word*

- Saul impressive humanly speaking; not so spiritually
- Saul seems to think he needs to "buy" prophet's favor
- Samuel was well known^{3:20}, but Saul seems ignorant of him

Apply: *don't be a Saul, outwardly attractive and handsome, but have few convictions from God's Word*

Samuel Listens to God

- God guided Samuel to be ready for Saul¹⁵⁻¹⁶
- God showed Samuel Saul¹⁷
- Samuel calms Saul - donkeys are fine²⁰
- Samuel honors Saul, Saul is puzzled²¹
- Samuel wants to speak to Saul alone²⁷ to give God's Word

So What?

- Why all the mundane details?
- They show us God's Doctrine of Providence
- Chasing lost donkeys was an ordinary event under God's providence to accomplish His purposes
- God is fulfilling His covenant promises and purposes... God promised a king^{Dt17:14} and He is providing though the people's motives are not good
- This was just one step in providing the King we need!
- We seldom see God's using the mundane events of our lives as working His Glorious purposes - Rm 8:28,29
- If you feel your life is falling apart... take comfort
- God is sovereign and in control.
- Deal with your troubles by starting with worship (feast²²), looking to the God who is, not the circumstances
- Live your life based upon God's Word, not your feelings!
- Remember Jesus' words: Mt 6:28-33
- See God's provision of the King you need: Jesus Christ