

Message #23**I Samuel 9:25-10:16**

When you first learn to drive, you learn to look for various signs. There are speed limit signs, there are stop signs, there are yield signs, there are school zone signs, there are turn direction signs, and of course there are traffic light signs. Now as you drive along those signs confirm that you are driving right and that you are doing what you are supposed to do. One of the signs that is critical to survival are the one way signs. Those signs confirm you are going the right direction. One way signs confirm you are not going the wrong direction or in a dangerous direction.

As we come to this text of Scripture, we come to a unique moment in the life of Saul. Samuel is in the process of informing Saul of something he never dreamed. To confirm the fact that he is going to lead Israel, he predicts a series of confirmatory signs that will show him that this is all of God.

WHEN GOD SOVEREIGNLY CHOOSES A PERSON FOR SALVATION AND SERVICE, THERE WILL BE CONFIRMATORY SIGNS ALONG THE WAY THAT ESTABLISH ONE IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

When a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ, it is an amazing sovereign work of God and the person is instantly and positionally and practically changed. Frankly, all things become new and all things are different. As you begin to move forward, there will be some confirmatory things that will happen. You won't necessarily be looking for these things but they will happen.

People will sense something about you is different. Whether it is on your job, in your school, in your home and even in the church, people will sense something about you is different. It won't be as dramatic as what happened to Saul, but there will be some things that will happen that show you things are moving in the right direction.

When God works with Israel nationally, He does dramatic revelatory things. For example, when He wanted to bring Israel out of Egypt, He literally appeared to Moses and revealed exactly what He was going to do. When God picks up the program with national Israel again, He will send out 144,000 Jewish men who will reveal it. In this case, God used Samuel to confirm what He would do with Saul.

There are three events that occur in Saul's life that confirm the fact that God was doing something very unique with him:

EVENT #1 – Samuel speaks to Saul. 9:25-27

After they had eaten the meal up on the high place, Saul went to Samuel's house and he stayed the night up on the roof. This was not uncommon in the east. A roof is flat and sometimes a room was added for a guest to sleep. In this part of the world, on a hot summer night, many people preferred to sleep up on a roof in the outdoors. Cool breezes make for better sleeping.

When we were in Turkey, there were some motel rooms that actually had a mattress out on the balcony of the motel room, so people could sleep outside. It was odd to see, but not odd for that part of the world.

Saul was certainly a rugged outdoor type of guy. He had spent many nights out in the mountains looking for the donkeys. So he enjoyed sleeping out. The cool night breezes up on the roof would make it good sleeping.

According to **verse 26**, at daybreak Samuel called to Saul and told him to get up so he could send him away. This would not be your normal send off. It was typical for a host to accompany the guest to the street and even the edge of the city. When we have guests about to leave, we typically walk them to the door or even out to the car.

According to **verse 27**, as they were walking, Samuel told Saul to let his servant go on ahead so that he could stay behind so that he could give him “the word of God.”

Now keep in mind it was the servant who knew about Samuel. It was the servant who actually convinced Saul to go see Samuel and now the servant is being sent ahead and being left out of the deal.

There is an important principle to see here and that is God’s work and God’s word is for different individuals. Frankly, the servant was probably more spiritual than Saul, but God’s elective choice was Saul. God does some things for one that He does not do with another. God revealed things to Moses He did not reveal to anyone else. The same could be said of the Apostle Paul. God has an individual plan for everyone and in order to understand the plan, one must go to where the word of God is taught and revealed. That is exactly what is happening here.

EVENT #2 – Samuel anoints Saul. 10:1-8

According to **verse 1**, Samuel anointed Saul with oil and kissed him. Anointing one with oil was a very sacred and significant moment in the O.T.. It set a person apart for sacred service. It set one apart as King and as the recipient of a special enabling work of the Holy Spirit.

This specific anointing was very rare. It was only necessary when a new ruler came to the throne or when the succession of leadership was in doubt. Saul was anointed here. David was anointed (I Sam. 16:12-13). Absalom was anointed (II Sam. 19:10). Solomon was anointed (I Kings 1:39).

The kiss that was associated with this anointing was a sign of extreme honor and homage to the one being anointed. As Samuel did this he said to Saul, you are the LORD’S anointed to rule “over His inheritance.”

Samuel is actually honoring a man who was going to be the leader of Israel because Samuel had been rejected. He knew that it was God who had anointed him to be ruler over Israel and Samuel is honoring God's choice and decision.

Saul was not anticipating any of this, God just sovereignly did this. He chose him and He had Samuel anoint him.

In **verses 2-6**, Samuel informs Saul that as he leaves he will have three confirmatory sign encounters that will show him the reality of all of this:

Confirmatory Sign Encounter #1 - Saul will have an encounter with two men. **10:2**

Samuel told Saul that the first thing that would happen would be that he would meet two men near Rachel's tomb, who would inform him that the donkeys had been found and that his father was anxious to find out what happened to Saul.

This is fascinating because what this shows us is that the calling of God takes place when one is being faithful to the job or assignment God has sovereignly given to the individual. Saul's job was to find the donkeys and he was faithful to that.

Confirmatory Sign Encounter #2 - Saul will have an encounter with three men. **10:3-4**

Samuel told Saul that the second thing that would happen would be that he would meet three men at the oak tree of Tabor, who were going up to Bethel to worship. They would be carrying three young goats, three loaves of bread and a jug of wine. They were obviously taking this as a sacrificial offering and gift, but they will actually give two loaves of bread to Saul.

This would confirm the fact that the anointing of Samuel was legitimate. That bread was supposed to be given to the anointed priest and they would give him two of the loaves indicating he is the anointed ruler.

God is basically showing Saul, I have called you and I will provide for you. This is a lesson we all need to learn and remember.

Confirmatory Sign Encounter #3 - Saul will have an encounter with a group of prophets.
10:5-6

Samuel told Saul the third thing that would happen would be that he would come near to "the hill of God" where the Philistine camp was located. God was about to single out Saul as King in the presence of their enemies.

Saul would go into a city nearby and would meet a group of prophets, who would be coming down from a worship service. They would have a harp, tambourine, flute and lyre and they would be prophesying, which means they would be communicating the word of God.

According to **verse 6**, three major things would happen to Saul personally:

- 1) Saul would receive the Spirit of the LORD. **10:6a**
- 2) Saul would actually prophesy. **10:6b**
- 3) Saul would become a changed man. **10:6c**

All of these things would happen to Saul as he got near prophets who were communicating the word of God.

I had a dear friend who is now with the Lord, whose name was Harold Kregel. He was a missionary in Spain for many years. He told me the story of how God called him. He said he had gone to church one Sunday night and a minister was preaching and challenging people to be willing to go where God wanted them to go and do what God wanted them to do. Harold said he was convicted that God wanted him to go to Spain. The minister never mentioned Spain or said one word about it. He was not looking at all for that to happen, but it did.

Saul was not looking for this. God just did it while he was listening to the word of God.

In **verses 7-8**, Samuel informs Saul that after all these things have happened, it confirms God is with you and that he should go to Gilgal, which is about 11 miles NE of Gibeah, where Saul lived (10:26). **Samuel told Saul to wait in Gilgal, until he came and gave him further instruction.**

This is critical because it clearly shows that he was not to make a move apart from God's man and God's word. Saul needed to get direction from the word of God and the man who would give him that direction was Samuel.

EVENT #3 – Saul is transformed. **10:9-16**

There are three major transformations that occur here:

Transformation #1 - God changes Saul's heart. **10:9**

God changed Saul's heart and all the signs happened just as Samuel said.

Now the Hebrew indicates that God did literally give Saul a new heart:

- 1) This new heart gave Saul a heart for God and His word.
- 2) This new heart gave Saul the supernatural ability to be Israel's king.

Transformation #2 - God's Spirit enabled Saul to prophesy. **10:10-13**

Saul began to speak the word of God just as the other true prophets of God. Many people knew Saul wasn't a prophet and they were shocked. Saul was not in some prophetic family. He was the son of Kish and some began to wonder, well who actually was his dad.

When God's hand is on someone, there is a new supernatural ability that one has to share the word of God.

Transformation #3 - God changes Saul's character. **10:14-16**

According to **verse 14**, Saul ran into his uncle, whom Josephus said was Abner (Ner) (I Sam. 14:50).

The uncle asked both the servant and Saul where they had been. Saul does not tell his uncle what happened to him, except that he ran into Samuel while looking for the lost donkeys. His uncle was very interested in the fact that he saw Samuel.

Now the text says Saul did not tell his uncle all that happened. We must wonder why wouldn't Saul tell his uncle about the most important thing that had ever happened to him in his life.

Some have suggested it was because Saul was modest. Some have suggested it was because Saul was humble. Some have suggested it was because Saul was cautious.

It is possible it was because of his insecurity and lack of assurance (10:22). It is also possible it is a sign of a lack of spirituality.

Josephus thinks the reason Saul did not tell his uncle was because he might become jealous as a military leader, thinking that his nephew would outrank him. It is also possible that he was making this all up. Let's face it, this was a very unique moment in the entire history of Israel.

It is also very possible since God was with him that he was actually following the leading of God by not telling his uncle (**10:7**).

Frankly, I think people talk too much. God's people ought to learn to keep their mouth shut more often. Especially when they get around certain people they need to learn not to blab everything.

PRACTICAL LESSONS:

- 1) See assignments through to the end. God works in that context.**
- 2) Spend time where God's word is carefully taught.**
- 3) When God calls someone to do a job, He will enable them to do the job.**
- 4) God changes hearts and characters.**