

# Keynotes from Steven Drivers am Sermon on 17/7/2022 am

## Series: "The Real King"

### Part 9 "Becoming God's man " 1 Samuel 10 verses 1-16

#### Scripture references from the ESV

**1 Samuel 10: 1-16** Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince<sup>[a]</sup> over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince<sup>[b]</sup> over his heritage. <sup>2</sup> When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, 'The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"' <sup>3</sup> Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. <sup>4</sup> And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand. <sup>5</sup> After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim,<sup>[c]</sup> where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. <sup>6</sup> Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. <sup>7</sup> Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. <sup>8</sup> Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do."

<sup>9</sup> When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day. <sup>10</sup> When they came to Gibeah,<sup>[d]</sup> behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. <sup>11</sup> And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" <sup>12</sup> And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" <sup>13</sup> When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

<sup>14</sup> Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel."

<sup>15</sup> And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." <sup>16</sup> And Saul said to

his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything.

What does it mean to be a man or woman of God, to be used by God for his glory?

You might think the people to whom this applies are church leaders or missionaries or perhaps people who are persecuted for their faith. If we are followers of Jesus, all of us should expect God to use us for his glory at any moment. We might not be a church leader, missionary or be persecuted but there are many ways God could use us.

- The real question is are we ready and prepared to be God's men and women, to be used by him for his glory?

In Chapter 10, Saul is facing a similar question. Having found his way to Samuel, whilst in search of his donkeys, Saul was anointed as the first king of Israel. Israel had asked for a king so that they could be like all the other nations. Saul clearly thought he was an unlikely candidate for king. He had already told Samuel that this seemed unlikely (1 Sam 9:21 see p4). His tribe (Benjamin) was not only the smallest, but in recent history had raped and murdered a Levite concubine, causing the rest of Israel to declare war on them. The idea of a member of this tribe becoming king seemed improbable.

Yet now we see God's plan to teach Saul how he can be the leader and become God's man, and indeed God's King. As Christians, we too are called to be God's men and women, though we also often doubt whether we can live up to the life to which we have been called. In this text we can find four ways that God uses to enable us to live for him.

1. **God restores and assures us.** Samuel told Saul that three signs were going to occur. (vv2-6 above). Each sign had a special significance for Saul.
  - a) The meeting at Rachel's tomb: Rachel was the beloved wife of Jacob (also named Israel), and Benjamin was his beloved son. This sign intimates that Israel still loved the tribe of Benjamin.
  - b) The three men offer him bread: This bread was to have been presented at the shrine at Bethel, and would only have been given to someone of high status. This was a sign that Israel would recognise Saul as king.

These first two signs indicated that Israel will love and accept Saul as king even though he comes from the tribe of Benjamin. It was a form of restoration for the tribe and assurance for Saul.

Saul's view was that he couldn't be God's chosen man because of his past and where he came from. God utilised this very fact for his glory. He restored the tribe of Benjamin through the kingship of Saul so that Saul's past was no longer a hindrance but was used by God to unite the kingdom of Israel.

**This is what God does – he restores and assures his people.**

- No matter what our past, it can be utilised by God for his glory
- No matter what our background is, or how old we are or what our family is like, we are welcome in the kingdom of God and are not past our purpose

**We can have the assurance that God has called us to this very place to be used for his glory.**

Before you read on, ask yourself these questions:

- What hindrances to from your past (e.g. your family, your age – too young or too old perhaps) do you need to give to the Lord?
- How aware are you that it is no accident that you are here?

**2. God transforms us (v10 ff above)** Something unexpected happened to Saul, son of Kish. He was given a new heart! He was transformed into another man. The Spirit of God came upon him and he was prophesying, and rejoicing in the Lord. He seemed so different that those who knew him wondered what had happened to him!

This transformation happened under the direction of God's Word as he spoke through Samuel. Saul was now in submission to that Word and it transformed his heart, leading to overflowing praise to God. The people asked who his father was and, in a sense, Saul had become the son of Samuel, directed by the word of God spoken through Samuel.

What happened to Saul is a glimmer of what happens to anyone who trusts in the Lord Jesus (**2Cor 5:17** see p4).

**When we truly put our faith in the Lord Jesus, who is the Word of God, we are transformed.**

Saul would know that God was with him to do the work he was called to do because of this transformation from the Father, through the Word (Jesus) and by the Spirit (v7 above).

You may remember a similar time when you came to know Jesus, and the change in you was apparent to the people around you. As we look to the Word, and the Spirit works through the Word, our hearts are drawn closer and closer to the glory of Christ. This leads to repentance of our sins and we will make different choices in our life, so that those who knew us before wonder what has happened to us, and in a way are asking who is our Father? Our answer is:

- Our Father is Lord of all – no matter our age, we are counted as children of the living God and co-heirs with Christ because of what God has done for us.
- God sent his Son, who defeated our sin on the cross, and rose again, giving us new life with him.

Saul is just a glimmer of what we have received in Christ, so like Saul, we can know that God is with us and have the confidence to live out this glorious truth in our every day life.

Yet we so easily forget what we have received. We are diverted by trying to be like everyone else (just as Israel wanted to be), instead of being who God has made us to be. Before you read on, ask yourself these questions:

- What is your relationship with God like at the moment?
- When did you last remember that you are still a child of God (not a grown-up Christian) through Christ?
- If you don't know Christ in this way, what is stooping you. Is it a heart issue rather than head knowledge?

3. **God equips us.** Saul's experience of prophecy was the last sign from Samuel, and it took place in Gibeah where the concubine was raped and murdered, a place which became the final place of restoration for Saul and where he was shown to be equipped for the specific work ahead of him.

The people were amazed at what Saul was doing (v12 above), because they knew what he had been like before. They saw that God must be doing something unique in Saul to equip him for what lay ahead.

The idea of really living out your faith in God might fill you with fear, but we must remember that whether you are a missionary or a person who attends a local church, God will equip you for the work he has called you to. Both calling and equipping may only last for a season and then it will be time to move on to something else. The church is called a body for a reason. We are all equipped for different roles that support one another and build one another up. As you get older, you may need to move to a less physical role, but you are still part of the body. You can pray for and encourage others.

- How could you be used by God and how has God equipped you to serve in his Church?
- Is it time to stop what you're doing and do something else?

We are called to be a body and no one comes along just for the ride, though there are times of rest, but

**being part of a church means being a partner, not a consumer.**

God has a specific purpose for each of us, and there are areas in which we could all serve one another, living out what has been won for us in Christ. That might be a practical area on a Sunday morning, evangelism, missionary work or leadership in some way. You can talk to one of the elders about how you could serve.

We want to be a church in which we become servants to one another, out of our delight in Christ and the transforming work that has happened in our lives, knowing that he will equip us for what he has called us to.

**4. He has a plan for us. (vv14-16 above)** Saul's uncle asked him what has happened, but Saul only told him that he met Samuel and the donkeys are safe! Nothing is said about being anointed King or about the prophesying. The uncle is left in the dark, but then so are all the people! Even Saul is not quite sure what is going on, and Samuel only knows on a moment-by-moment basis as God reveals it to him.

**The only being who knows the whole plan is God!**

Most of the time God's real work is concealed. We don't know what he is doing but we can know that he is working to reveal his glory. We might see, for example, the donkeys getting lost, but in reality God was doing something amazing with his

people. The same happens in our lives. We see the surface events but, underneath these, God may be preparing us to go in a new direction. God is not finished with us!

- What might God be preparing you for? Have you experienced this in your life?
- God has restored us to himself
- God assures us of his love
- God transforms us from the inside out
- God equips us to build his church
- God has a plan for us.

God is the one who makes us his men and women, though what he has done through his Son. It is an overflow from what we have received and continue to receive. That is what leads us to do exactly what we see Saul doing.

**That overflow leads us to praise the name of God and to fix our eyes on him**

**1 Sam 9:21** Saul answered, "Am I not a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?"

**2Cor 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.<sup>[b]</sup> The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.