

## **From a Nobody to a King** **1 Samuel 9-10**

### **Introduction:**

1. In 1 Samuel 8, Israel demanded to have a king. They wanted to be like all the other nations.
2. The prophet of God, Samuel, tried to warn them of the consequences of their choices, but they would not listen. Israel was insistent. "We want a king!" 8:19
3. In chapter 9, God chose a man to be the king of Israel. His name was Saul. 9:1-2
  - Saul's dad was a big, strong man, and so was Saul. Verse 2 simply means that he was very tall and handsome. He was a fine-looking young man.
4. When Samuel told Saul God's plan to make him king, Saul didn't say, "I figured I would be God's choice. I'm the logical choice." No! Let's read 9:21. Saul basically said, "Why would God pick me? I am a nobody." And, in fact, he truly **was** a "nobody."
  - He was from the poorest family of the smallest tribe in Israel. Nobody knew of him. He had no political power, no wealth, and no prestige.
5. But yet he went from being a "nobody" to a king. How did this happen? Many of you know that Saul's life ended up in misery and destruction. Saul is known for being a man of anger and rebellion. But Saul did not start out this way.
6. There were some wonderful character attributes present in Saul's life that led him from being a "nobody" to a king.

### **Saul possessed an obedient spirit. 9:3-4, 25-27, 10:1-8**

1. There is a good test that will help you to see if people will be obedient to God. Are they obedient to those in authority over them?
2. We are introduced to Saul in chapter 9 with his father giving him a rather non-glorious duty to perform. "Saul, a bunch of my donkeys have wandered off and are lost. I need you to go and find them and bring them back." vs. 3
3. How does Saul respond? Saul immediately obeyed (9:4-5). Saul was physically a big man. He could have refused his father's instructions or argued with him about it. But he obeyed, and while he was performing this lowly task, Saul met Samuel who informed him that he was God's choice to be Israel's king. vs. 14-21
  - Samuel proceeds to take in Saul, feed him a feast (9:24d), and then talks to Saul and begins to teach Saul the Word of God. 9:25-27
  - Samuel then begins to give Saul one order after another in chapter ten (vs. 1-8), and Saul obeys everything that Samuel tells him to do.
4. Here is the point: Had Saul **not** obeyed his father to begin with, he would have never met Samuel. Saul had such an obedient spirit when he started out. He simply wanted to do what he was supposed to do.
5. Obedience is such a key in every dispensation throughout God's Word. Today we have the completed Word of God and God expects us to rightly divide it and obey it. 2 Corinthians 10:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 3:14; Romans 6:16-17

6. There is one word that would clear up so many of our problems: **obedience**. We simply do what God says to do. "But it's too difficult. I can't do it." You are exactly right; **you** can't do it, but **Christ** can (He is the sinless One). If you are saved, He lives in you and desires to live through you. Galatians 2:20

#### **Saul possessed a new heart.**

1. Samuel showed Saul God's Word, revealed God's plan to him, and Saul obviously believed God. Let's read 10:6-7, 9-10.
2. When he believed God, God gave to him a new heart. Then Saul possessed more than just physical strength and power. He possessed spiritual power from God's Spirit.
  - In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would come upon believers for special tasks, giving them spiritual power to accomplish those tasks.
3. Today, God gives the Holy Spirit to believers the moment they trust Christ as their Savior. God's Spirit comes to live and dwell in us permanently. Just like Saul, those who believe on Christ today are given a new heart, a new spirit. 2 Corinthians 5:17
  - Our heart is said to be darkened (Romans 1:21) and blinded (Ephesians 4:18) before salvation. But when you trust Christ, the light of Jesus enters in and drives away the darkness and blindness.
4. When Saul received his new heart, all those around him knew that he was different. He was a changed man. 10:11-12
5. This is God's plan for believers today. God wants us to go out and live in our new identity that we have in Christ. Every day we have a choice to either walk in the Spirit and in the new life we now have in Christ, or walk after the flesh. Galatians 5:16; Colossians 3:10-14
6. We have spiritual power in Christ, but the key is yieldedness. Ephesians 5:18, 3:20

#### **Saul possessed humility.**

1. They were looking for Saul to anoint him as king, but he couldn't be found. He was hiding (10:21-23). Most people would have been strutting around like a chief rooster. But we don't see this arrogance in Saul.
2. This same humility was seen when Samuel first approached Saul in 9:21. We also see this same humility in 10:27, when there was a group that tried to publicly shame Saul. Saul did not retaliate; he simply held his peace.
3. Saul went from a "nobody" to a king because he possessed humility.
4. God cannot lift up, exalt, or promote a person who is full of pride (1 Peter 5:5), but God will never turn away anyone who comes and genuinely humbles himself at His feet. James 4:10
5. Jesus rebuked the spiritual pride of the religious Pharisees, but He never turned away sinners who humbled themselves at His feet. When discussing Israel's coming earthly kingdom, notice what Christ told His disciples in Matthew 18:1-4.

**In Conclusion:**

1. We know how Saul's life ended. His life ended in misery, and complete and total failure. He became prideful, rebellious, egocentric, power-hungry, manipulative, and violent.
2. But I wanted us to see that Saul did not start out this way. It happened over a period of several years. Saul could have been a great leader, but he simply got too big for his own britches.
3. None of us are above a Saul-like fall. We must continually guard ourselves and ask penetrating questions of ourselves to see if we are truly keeping a humble and obedient spirit, seeking to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.