

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

MONDAY Arriving in the hill country, Saul and his servant inquired regarding the prophet's whereabouts. Young girls at the well at the edge of town told them where to find Samuel. Meanwhile, God had told Samuel ahead of time about Saul's coming, and he was expecting him.

I Samuel 9:11-17

It all seems like such a great set of coincidences, does it not? The right time, the right place, the right people, all fitting together in such a lucky way. Let us remember that not even a sparrow falls to the ground unless God causes that to happen! Coincidence nothing! Luck had nothing to do with it! God was at the controls and He orchestrated the details to fit and accomplish His purposes. So it is with our lives this very day. What does God have for us? What's He orchestrating in our lives? Help me today to be looking for your hand in the circumstances of life.

TUESDAY Saul and his servant met Samuel, who told them that the donkeys had been found. And then added that Saul would rule over Israel. Saul demurred, confessing himself to be far too insignificant to ever be king of Israel.

I Samuel 9:18-21

Samuel addressed Saul as the one who is desired of the whole nation. Of course, that had not happened yet, else he would not be out hunting lost donkeys! But once he is declared to be king, the people will flock around him in wholehearted support. He's exactly the kind of king the people envisioned: one they will proudly follow! He even demonstrates a humble spirit, and that, too, is something the people would approve of. If ever it could be said that a man was born to be King, it could be said of Saul. He seems like the perfect candidate. With what we'll see comes after this in Saul's life, this passage is saying to us that things aren't always what they seem. There's more – much more – to life than the outward appearance.

WEDNESDAY Samuel sponsored a feast for some 30 people including Saul. During the serving of the meal, Saul was served a meaty leg which had been purposely set aside for him before the meal had started. Samuel symbolically explained that the meat (position of kingship) had been reserved for Saul. The next morning, he instructed Saul to send his servant on ahead, that he would proclaim the Word of the Lord to Saul.

I Samuel 9:22-27

Samuel and Saul rose early and spent the morning hours together. Samuel probably told the young man the whole story: how that God had spoken to Samuel in a dream and that Saul was to be king, and so on. The decision-making process is clear here: Saul is the people's ideal choice for king, and God has determined that Saul shall be their king. Is it not amazing that God would do such a thing knowing that Saul will fail so badly? Yet He does! Should we not be wholly determined to commit our ways to the Lord and to His ways, so that when He grants us the desire of our hearts, it will also be the desire of His heart?

THURSDAY Samuel poured oil on Saul's head and anointed him to be King of Israel. Then he instructed him to go to Gilgal for the official coronation. Samuel offered Saul several prophetic proofs to demonstrate that all this was, in fact, of God. Samuel predicted the people Saul will meet and what those people would say to him. When these things actually happened, they will serve as assurances to Saul that it's all truly God's doing.

I Samuel 10:1-9

Samuel tells Saul that the Spirit of the Lord will come upon him and that he will be changed into another man. He is speaking of spiritual transformation. The Holy Spirit is in the business of changing lives. *Those who stole, steal no more. And those who cheated or lied or hated, have (by God's grace) been changed, and lead lives that are holy and right.* That's what God does to us! He changes us! He's changing us this day to be more and more like Jesus Christ. Change me, O Lord!

FRIDAY Leaving Samuel, Saul headed home. Along the way, all the signs which Samuel predicted actually happened to Saul, including his meeting a group of prophets. He joined them in prophesizing. Spectators to this were amazed. The change in Saul was so great, that people began to use the expression, "Is Saul among the prophets?" as a proverb, to express surprise at a remarkable and noticeable change in anyone.

I Samuel 10:9-12

God changed Saul's heart. All things became new. He forgot about the donkeys for which he had been searching. He forgot about fighting the Philistines. He no longer had the heart for the things of this world, but his heart was for the things of God. God had a job for Saul to do and He made him fit and ready for the task. God does that. He gives us opportunities to serve Him and equips us for the tasks before us. Let us trust Him to do that in the way He deems best, and to serve Him well.

SATURDAY Returning home, Saul's uncle met him and asked about his whereabouts. Saul explained about searching for the donkeys and meeting Samuel -- things his uncle had probably already had heard about -- but left out everything which had to do with being anointed king.

I Samuel 10:13-16

Saul demonstrates his humility by holding back the information that most others would have boasted of. Perhaps the new heart which God gave to Saul also included wisdom and prudence: a heart prepared for governing well. At this point in his life, Saul was not set on making a name for himself nor rushing into the kingship reserved for him. He was willing to wait for God's timing, and let Samuel continue to lead. Let us be willing to follow God and trust His perfect timing in our lives, as well.

#7