
Becoming Christlike – Learning How from Old Testament Kings and Prophets

Session 12 – I Samuel 9-10

Last session we covered I Samuel 1-8. We saw that Israel demanded a king. God knew this day would come and had addressed it back in Deuteronomy in 1500 BC then 450 years later the day arrives.

Saul is the first king. The very first one. Chapters 9-31 deal with Saul. (Of course there are sections focused on David and Jonathan as well within those chapters.) That is a lot of ink dedicated to just one person. As we look at his life and actions, we can speculate about what was going on in his mind, driving him to make the choices that he did. Considering he came from relative obscurity to being king.

Saul started out okay but ended up being a terribly bad king. It is almost shocking how bad after all God did to encourage and enable him!

He is an example of a number of things:

Freedom of will. He had the first five books of the Bible. He could have chosen to do God's will. But he made very bad choices, even seeking to kill David.

Saul was the *first* king. Who was the *last* king? Christ THE KING. There is an incredible contrast between the two. Man's way and man's choices result in catastrophe. God's way and God's choices end up in redeeming salvation and victory.

In looking at Saul, we will see a lot about human nature, good and bad choices.

I Samuel 9:3

3 Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys."

Saul had such a humble beginning. His job here was to go and find some lost donkeys.

4 And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin but did not find them.

They are looking and looking and not finding them. (Might have asked God first?!) Just real life.

5 When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant^a who was with him, "Come, let us go back, lest my father cease to care about the donkeys and become anxious about us."

So human. It had been so long and Saul was sure his father would be worried about him by now.

6 But he said to him, "Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; **all that he says comes true**. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go."

Look at the reputation Samuel has! People knew he spoke for God and what he said came true. This is the very definition of a true prophet. If one is speaking for God, all he says will come to pass. Contrast that with the counterfeits that the devil provides, psychics and palm readers will often have a nugget of truth in their predictions but they will have a lot wrong as well.

Deuteronomy 18:18-22

18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. **19** And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. **20** But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or^f who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’ **21** And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?’— **22** when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

I Samuel 9:7

7 Then Saul said to his servant, “But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?”

It was the custom when going to a man of God to bring some gift. We see that here and other places in the Old Testament, but it is carried into the New Testament as well.

Galatians 6:7

6 Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches **7** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Paul taught that principle to people in the first century church. They did not always act accordingly. That is actually the context of an often-misused verse in Philippians 4.

Philippians 4:10-12

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. **11** Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. **12** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**

Verse 13 is often quoted completely out of its context. Paul was speaking about the fact that some churches supported him financially and others did not. He had experienced both abundance and lack. It did not matter. He went on preaching the Word no matter what the circumstances. People take verse 13 to say they can run a marathon or climb a mountain...totally out of context.

I share this to show that the same principles exist in both the Old and New Testaments.

8 The servant answered Saul again, “Here, I have with me a quarter of a shekel^b of silver, and I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way.” **9** (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, “Come, let us go to the seer,” for today’s “prophet” was

formerly called a seer.) **10** And Saul said to his servant, “Well said; come, let us go.” So they went to the city where the man of God was.

He was called a seer because he could see into the future.

They are still walking, still taking time. They decide to go get help from the man of God.

11 As they went up the hill to the city, they met young women coming out to draw water and said to them, “Is the seer here?” **12** They answered, “He is; behold, he is just ahead of you. Hurry. He has come just now to the city, because the people have a sacrifice today on the high place. **13** As soon as you enter the city you will find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat till he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately.” **14** So they went up to the city. As they were entering the city, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.

This is so like God! The day prior, He had prepared Samuel for their arrival:

15 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel: **16** “Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and **you shall anoint him to be prince^c over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines.**

This is huge! You shall anoint him prince/king over my people Israel (in place of me). Here we see the charge of God’s first king...to save them from the Philistines.

Christ, God’s last king, would save God’s people **from their sins!** The contemporary people thought he would save them from the hand of the Romans.

For I have seen^d my people, because their cry has come to me.”

This echoes the condition of the Children of Israel crying out to God when in bondage in Egypt.

17 When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, “Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people.” **18** Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, “Tell me where is the house of the seer?” **19** Samuel answered Saul, “I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning, I will let you go **and will tell you all that is on your mind.**

This is classic! Samuel does not say he will tell Saul all that is in Samuel’s mind, though that is what he will do. He will tell Saul all that God has put in his (Samuel’s) mind. What is on Saul’s mind at this time? He wants to know where the donkeys are! Samuel immediately speaks to that. How did Samuel know this? Of course God has revealed this to Samuel, they are on crystal clear speaking terms. Being king of Israel is NOWHERE in the mind of Saul!

20 As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father’s house?” **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?”

Saul is completely puzzled. What is going on here Samuel? He defines who he perceives himself to be...basically a big nobody.

22 Then Samuel took Saul and his young man and brought them into the hall **and gave them a place at the head of those who had been invited**, who were about thirty persons.

God had prepared Samuel; Samuel had prepared the cook.

23 And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion I gave you, **of which I said to you, 'Put it aside.'**" **24** So the cook took up the leg and what was on it and set them before Saul. And Samuel said, "See, what was kept is set before you. Eat, because it was kept for you until the hour appointed, that you might eat with the guests."^e So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

Saul should be thinking "how does Samuel know all this?". He is learning first-hand what the ministry of a prophet or seer looks like! This should be building confidence in Saul's heart that this man works and speaks for GOD and all that he says does come to pass.

25 And when they came down from the high place into the city, a bed was spread for Saul on the roof, and he lay down to sleep.^f

This was according to customs of the time.

26 Then at the break of dawn^g Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Up, that I may send you on your way." So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street.

Samuel serves as Saul's alarm clock...get up!

27 As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to pass on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, **that I may make known to you the word of God.**"

Now Saul should be prepped and ready to hear the Word of God from the lips of Samuel!

Chapter 10 Saul is Anointed King

1 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^a 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^b over his heritage.

Samuel anoints him then proceeds to give him multiple signs, tells him what is going to happen, who is going to say what and when! This is so like God to give him the Word then to give him these multiple signs to embed in his mind this true calling from God.

2 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?"' **3** 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.**

Just look at all the specificities! Tells exactly who his will meet and what each will be carrying.

4 And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand.

More specifics!

5 After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim,^c 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. **6** **Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.**

God must have given all of this to Samuel in a panoramic, movie-style vision that he could see and convey to Saul in such exquisite detail. Then the Spirit of God will rush upon you! It will be noticeable! Now you will prophesy with the prophets. **You will be turned into another man!**

Pause and consider yourself and the significance of the spirit of God you received. The spirit of God has been born in you at the point of your new birth. What should that look like? You can now manifest the 9 manifestations of holy spirit. Your life should reflect the fruit of the spirit. You should look different to those around you, being turned into another person.

Saul was turned into another man. Consider the OT prophecies about our current age. New person, different heart, new government, Pentecost.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.^a

Jeremiah 31:33-34

33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **34** And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

I Samuel 10:7

7 Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, **for God is with you. 8** 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."

Look at God nurturing Saul and giving him such exact details to reassure him. Samuel has an ongoing project in helping raise up this king that neither Samuel nor God wanted. Look at the grace, mercy, compassion and kindness of God Almighty through obedient Samuel for his people.

9 When he turned his back to leave Samuel, **God gave him another heart.**

Don't we want another heart during times when we get jealous, angry, bitter, or resentful. God has given us another heart. We have to flood our minds with the truth of His word for it to manifest.

And all these signs came to pass that day.

Isn't that shocking? No! Look at verse 1 "And **this shall be the sign** to you that the Lord has anointed you to be prince^b over his heritage" and at verse 7 "**7 Now when these signs** meet you"

10 When they came to Gibeah,^d behold, a group of prophets met him, **and the Spirit of God rushed upon him**, and he prophesied among them. **11** 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?" **12** And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

He prophesies with the prophets! All the people are marvelling. What has happened to this son of Kish? We see this sometimes with converted criminals, or drug addicts, or athletes that fall then rise again because of their conversion and learning of the Word. Revisit our series on Transformation and Growth to maturity.

13 When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

14 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." **15** And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you." **16** 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.**

We can speculate about why Saul did not share anything further than about the donkeys, but we really just don't know.

17 Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah. **18** And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' **19** But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands."

God, through Samuel is setting up His announcement. Exemplary of a prophet. Prophets are not afraid to boldly speak the truth even if it offends people.

- God delivered you
- Oh by the way, you rejected him who saves you from calamity and distress
- Now you are getting the king who is going to do just what I told you back in chapter 8
- This king is going to oppress you!

Okay you are getting what you have wanted!

20 Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. **21** He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot;^e and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. **22** So they inquired again of the Lord, “Is there a man still to come?” and the Lord said, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.”

Here is Samuel going through the process of elimination and making the big announcement and “would-be” introduction of Saul as king, but Saul is hiding among the baggage. What does that say about Saul and his state?

23 Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. **24** And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.” **And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”**

The people rejoice. He looks exactly like who they want as their king.

25 Then Samuel told the people the **rights and duties of the kingship**, and **he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the Lord.**

The spoken Word is then written down! Samuel writes it down, so it is documented for the present and the future. Consider 1000 years later it is read by Jesus. He sees what happened to the first king. Reads of David and how he was pursued to be put to death. Christ is reading this and realizing that’s me, I am going to be innocent, but I will be chased, oppressed, persecuted ridiculed, mocked. They will seek to kill me, but it is for the salvation of all mankind. Think of Paul and Peter reading this and learning from the Old Testament in order to quote it and teach from it.

The ESV Study Bible note on I Samuel 10:25

The rights and duties of the kingship is lit., **the rule of the kingship**: i.e., the relationship between the king and the people, about which both the newly enthroned king and the people must have legal agreement. Legal agreements were usually written down and confirmed by the seals of the witnesses. Here Samuel was the intermediary and witness. He also laid the document before the Lord, i.e., deposited it in a sanctuary (cf. putting the Book of the Law or the covenant into or beside the ark. Ex. 25:16, 40:20, Deut. 31:26).

Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home. **26** Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of **valor whose hearts God had touched**. **27** But some worthless fellows said, “How can this man save us?” And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.

There were (and always will be) some naysayers, despising him and essentially saying we are not going to listen to this guy. But Saul held his peace. This happens today with converted individuals whose transformation is not accepted by those around them.

Moving forward we will not read entire chapters. We will look at excerpts highlighting incidents but encourage you to read the entire chapters.