

## ***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***

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**SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)**

### **WEDNESDAY**

#### **OPEN**

Do you remember that song Ordinary People? It was a song about how God chooses and uses ordinary people, people that are not expecting God to use them and God to call them to a very high place in life. And yet when you stop and you look back at the history of the servants of God you see that there was a day when God tapped them on the shoulder. He may be doing that to you.

#### **PART ONE**

Saul was tall; Saul was handsome, but Saul was ordinary. We're picking up in our study in 1 Samuel, chapter 9, and we're going to see God's calling of Saul to become the first king of Israel. And it's so interesting because as you read through this chapter I want you to see, as I read to you, and as we look at the text together, I want you to see how this happens, because it ought to be an encouragement to you. You know God wants to use you, Beloved. If you're a child of God, ["You are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus

unto good works that God has before ordained, laid out for you to walk in.”](Ephesians 2:10) God has a plan for your life. You’ve heard it. If you know my dear friend Bill Bright who’s with the Lord now, God had a plan for Bill. God has a plan for you. God has a plan for every child of God. And you just don’t know when God’s going to tap you on the shoulder and when that’s going to unfold. And it’s going to surprise you because you think, Oh, I’m not extraordinary; there’s, there’s nothing special about me. But, Beloved, God delights in [“choosing the base and the foolish and the things that are nothing and the things that are despised, so that no flesh can glory in His presence.”](1Corinthians 1:27-29) Well here was Saul, he was tall and he was handsome, but Saul didn’t think of himself as anything special. In chapter 9 of 1 Samuel it says, “...there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish...,”(1Samuel 9:1a) Verse 2: “He had a son whose name was Saul.”(9:2a) We find out how tall he is and how handsome he is. “Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul’s father, were lost. So Kish said to his son Saul, ‘Take now with you one of the servants, and arise, go search for the donkeys.’”(9:3) He’s just out looking for his dad’s donkeys and, “He passed through the hill country of Ephraim...,”(9:4a) Now that’s the largest of the tribes of the Northern Kingdom. The kingdom has not yet divided. But the hill country of Ephraim is to the north of Jerusalem. And so you want to double underline that, because it’s a geographical location. “...and [he] passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. Then they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they [the donkeys] were not there. Then he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find them. [And] when they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, ‘Come, and let us return, [lest] my father...cease to be concerned about the donkeys and...become anxious for us.’ [And] He said to him, ‘Behold now...,’”(9:4b-6a) this is the servant that’s speaking. ‘...Behold now, there[’s] a man of God in this city, and the man is held in honor; all that he says surely comes true. Now let[’s] go there, perhaps he can tell us about our journey on which we’ve set out.’ Then Saul said to his servant, ‘But behold, if we go, what [will] we bring the man? For the bread

is gone from our sack and there[’s] no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?’ [And] The servant answered Saul again and said, ‘Behold, I have in my hand a fourth of a shekel of silver; [and] I will give it to the man of God and he will tell us our way.’”(1Samuel 9:6a-8) Now there’s a parenthesis here, because he wants you to understand something. It says, “(Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God...)”(9:9a) Remember they didn’t have access to the Word of God. If anybody had the Torah it was in a scroll and they read that scroll, but it was in the keeping of the priests and the scribes, not in the keeping of the common people. And so they went to inquire of God by going to a prophet. So formerly in Israel when a man went to inquire of God... Now this is what I would underline. And from this point on in your study, anytime you come to that phrase, inquiring of God, I would mark it in a very distinguishable way. It says, “(...[he] went to inquire of God, he used to say, ‘Come, and let us go to the seer’; for he who is called a prophet now was formerly called a seer.)”(9:9) So what the writer’s doing is the writer is letting you know hey, a seer is a prophet, a prophet is a seer. We don’t call them a seer anymore; we call them prophets. “Then Saul said to his servant, ‘Well said; come, let us go.’ So they went to the city where the man of God was.”(9:10) Now note that this prophet is called a man of God. “[And] they went up to the slope [of] the city, [and] they found young women going...to draw water and they said to them, ‘Is the seer here?’ [And] They answered [him] and said, ‘He is; see, he[’s] ahead of you. Hurry now, for he[’s] come into the city today, for the people have a sacrifice on the high place today. [And] As soon as you enter the city you’ll find him before he goes up to the high place to eat, for the people will not eat until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterwards those who are invited will eat. Now therefore, go up, for you[’ll] find him [there] at once.””(9:11-13) Now here are these women, these typical women, giving the details, not just hurry up to the city, he’s there, but they have to explain how he’s going to bless the sacrifice and what he’s going to do and all of that. All right, verse 11; we’re into details girls. “So they went up to the city, [and] as they came into the city, behold, Samuel

was coming out toward them to go up to the high place. Now a day before Saul's coming,"(9:14-15a) time phrase; mark it; put a clock over before. "...the Lord had revealed this to Samuel saying, 'About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over My people Israel...'"(9:15b-16a) Now the word prince in the Hebrew, and I would write it right there in the text of your observation worksheet, is nagid, n-a-g-i-d. All right, so it's a prince; it's a ruler. "...and you shall anoint him."(9:16b) So I would mark anoint. It's going to become an important word. Now today a lot of people are talking about do you have the anointing and if you want the anointing. Well, I just want to stop here and tell you that if you're a child of God you too are anointed by God, and God has something special for you to do. In 1 John, chapter 2, in verse 19 he's talked about people that come and say they're of God, but they really aren't of God. And in verse 20 it says, "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know." He says, "I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you...know it, and because [that] no lie is of the truth."(1John 2:20-21) And then we drop down to verse 27: "[And] As for you, the anointing which you [have] received from Him [from God] abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him."(2:27) Now he's writing to a group of people that are being persuaded by this new theology that's coming on the horizon that we call gnosticism. And it's a gnosticism where it says there's an elite group of people who can know. And it's like today, people are teaching hey, you've got to have the anointing. Well listen beloved; if you're a child of God you've got the anointing. You received it from God. It abides in you and this anointing, which is the Holy Spirit is going to teach you all things and it's true and therefore you can know truth for yourself. You don't have to be dependent upon others. Now God uses others and uses programs like this and television programs and teaching in the pulpit and all of that, and Sunday School to give us information. But the way that you can tell whether that information is right or wrong is because you have an

anointing from God, so that you can discern truth. You have the Holy Spirit living inside of you. We don't have time to go to it, but if you want to look that up, read 1 Corinthians, chapter 2 after the program, not during the program, after the program. So God has told Samuel, hey tomorrow at this same time there's a man that is coming to you that you are to anoint to be the prince over My people, to be the king in other words. And he shall deliver My people from the hand of the Philistines. Now the Philistines were the perennial enemy. I mean the Philistines were always around; they were always giving Israel trouble. Even today, you go to the area of Philistea, which is Gaza and along the coast and little bit inland and those are the Philistines of the day. And he says, "...he [shall] deliver My people from the hand[s] of the Philistines. For I have regarded My people, because their cry has come to Me." (1 Samuel 9:16b) God's ears are not deaf to our cry. And, Beloved, when you and I cry to God He hears, He hears. And because He's a God of loving kindness and that's the word hesed; and it's grace poured out on us. He hears our cry. So Saul is to be the answer to the cry of the people, the deliverer. And it says and, "When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said to him, 'Behold, the man of whom I spoke to you! This one shall rule over My people.'" (9:17) Now just think, I mean here he is just chasing donkeys. He can't even find the donkeys. He goes here and then he goes there, and then he goes there. And yet God is directing his steps. And you're going to see Saul doesn't think of himself as anything special. And beloved, you may not think of yourself as anything special, but you know what? If you're a righteous man, a righteous woman, that does not mean perfect, but you want to live for God and be everything that God wants you to be, you can know this, that God says "[The]...steps [of a righteous man] are [ordered] by the Lord..." that a man's goings are of the Lord. "...How then can [a] man understand His way?" (Proverbs 20:24) Stand on tiptoe; God has something for you to do.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back, Beloved, what you see next in I Samuel is this, Samuel has seen Saul and the Lord says hey, that's my man. "Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate..." doesn't even know who he is, "...and [says,] 'Please tell me where the seer's house is.' [And] Samuel answered Saul and said, '[I'm] the seer. Go up before me to the high place, [and] you shall eat with me today; and in the morning I will let you go, and will tell you all that is on your mind.'"(9:18-19) You know what I love? I love when I go to a conference and someone will stop me and they'll say you know what, I prayed that I would run into you today. And I think, well I prayed that God would use me in whoever's life He wanted to use me in. And so you're going down the hall; you're supposed to go in one direction, you end up going in another direction. God directs our steps. God directs our steps. Here is Saul; he doesn't know what's going on. He doesn't have the slightest idea. He's just into the loss and finding lost donkeys. And God directs his step, and all of a sudden here he is before the seer. And this is the man he's been looking for. And Saul is told by Samuel, "As for your donkeys which were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found..." This is verse 20. "...And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father's household?"(9:20) In other words, hey I have something for you. I have something for you and it's for you and it's for all your father's household, and he didn't even expect it. You know I love it, because when I run into these people and they say you know I prayed. Then what we see is they prayed and God answered. God is listening. God desires to bless us. O, if we just realized honey, as you're working in that home today, or sir as you're listening on the radio as you drive or as you take your lunch hour, as many of you tell me that you do, just know this, that God desires to bless you. Just keep talking to Him. Just keep committing your way to Him as you go looking for lost donkeys, so to speak. God will direct your steps. Saul answered and said, "...'Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin...?'" I mean, don't you know that

we're nothing? "...‘Why then do you speak to me in this way?’”(9:21) I’m nothing. Why are you telling me that all that is desirable in Israel is for me? Why do you tell me that it’s for my father’s household? I’m a Benjamite; I’m not from Judah. I’m not from one of the great tribes of Israel. I’m from the smallest tribe. My family is not well known. My family’s the least of all the families. Why do you speak to me in this way? “Then Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall and gave them a place at the head of those who were invited, who were about thirty men.”(9:22) In other words he’s been brought up front. Remember the Bible tells you that when you go into a place don’t seek the place of highest honor; you just stay in the back and you let them promote you, lest you get up there to take the front seat and they say, I’m sorry this is reserved for someone else. Well here comes this humble guy, this good looking humble guy, this good looking guy that’s head and shoulders above the others, but who just sees himself as a nothing, and all of a sudden he’s put at the head of the table. And, “Samuel [says] to the cook, ‘Bring the portion that I gave you, concerning which I said to you, Set it aside.’”(9:23) In other words, he had set aside a leg of lamb. “[And] the cook took up the leg with what was on it and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, ‘Here is what has been reserved! Set before you and eat, because it has been kept for you until the appointed time, since I said I have invited the people.’”(1Samuel 9:24a-b) Now remember Samuel knows what’s going on; Saul does not. So Saul’s sitting there and he “...ate with Samuel that day.”(9:24c) I mean I can imagine him going home and saying guess who I ate with, let me tell you how this happened. I had these donkeys they were lost. You know, I was just wandering around. Somebody told me, my servant told me about a seer. Guess where I ate today. You know, I ate with Samuel. It’s like saying I ate with Billy Graham today. I ate with Chuck Colson today. I ate with John Macarthur today. I ate with David Jeremiah. I ate with Ravi Zacharias, you know, with these great men of God. “[And] When they came down from the high place into the city, Samuel spoke with Saul on the roof.”(9:25) Not only did he eat with him, but he slept on the roof with him. I mean they spent the night together. “And they arose early;

and [it came about] at daybreak [that] Samuel called to Saul on the roof, saying, ‘Get up, that I may send you away.’ So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street. [And] As they were going...to the edge of the city, Samuel said to Saul, ‘Say to the servant that he might go ahead of us and pass on, but you remain standing now, that I may proclaim the word of God to you.’ Then Samuel...,” chapter 10, verse 1, “...took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, [on Saul’s head and] kissed him and said, ‘Has not the Lord anointed you a ruler...,’”(9:26-10:10a) nagid, n-a-g-i-d; write it in the margin, ““...over His inheritance?””(10:10b) My goodness, can’t you just see Saul? Can’t you just look up at this man head and shoulders above others, with his mouth hanging open? This is a man that does not know how handsome he is. This is a man that thinks he is an absolute nothing. This is a man that is looking for his dad’s donkeys. This is a man that all of a sudden has met the man of God, the seer, the prophet Samuel and has just been anointed as the ruler, the king over God’s inheritance, over God’s inheritance. Beloved, do you realize that God has anointed you so that you might minister to His people? And He has gifted you to do that in His own way. God has a purpose for your life even as He had a purpose for Saul’s life. And many times you’re going to find out about it in the most unexpected way and you’re going to see hey, my life is not without purpose; God has a task for me to do. Precious one, “...[you] are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God [Almighty has] ordained [for you to walk in.]”(Ephesians 2:10 KJV) Get going.