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Pastor Dan Esh

Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix

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1ST SAMUEL

ISRAEL'S INSECURE KING

1ST SAMUEL 10

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Insecurity - uncertainty or anxiety about oneself, lack of confidence
 - 1. The state of being open to danger or threat; lack of protection.
 - 2. Unstable, apprehensive – out of control
 - 3. Life has a way of making it clear that we are not in control.
 - a) That we are not sufficient for the task of dealing with the challenges that life presents.
 - 4. The question is - where do we turn in search of security?
 - a) Who or what do we trust to be an anchor in the ever-changing sea of human existence?
 - b) Do we look inward, outward, or upward?
- B. Chapter 8 ends with the nation of Israel looking horizontally for hope
 - 1. Understandable, they had lost confidence in their ability to defeat their enemies – although God had given them recent victories over the Philistines, the loss of the Ark was still fresh in their minds
 - 2. Looked at Samuel's sons, no doubt had flashbacks to the sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas
 - a) Not wanting to go down that road again they searched for strength and stability – looking horizontally
 - b) "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."
 - c) "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. But you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."
 - (1) He will take - take your sons and make them his soldiers, take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers, take the best of your fields, vineyards, and olive groves. He will take a tenth of your grain. He will take your donkeys and sheep. You will be his servants.
 - (2) You desire a human king to rule over you? You seek security and protection by worldly means. Understand that you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day.
 - 3. Nevertheless, the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

4. Chapter 9 we meet Israel's king to be – he is exactly what the nation of Israel asked for
 - a) For better or worse he exemplifies the spiritual condition of Israel

II. LOST DONKEYS

- A. Our story begins with a tall and handsome young man named and a herd of lost donkeys
 1. Saul was sent out with one of his father's servants to find their lost donkeys
 2. We read that they passed through the mountains of Ephraim and through the land of Shalisha, but they did not find them. Then they passed through the land of Shaalim, and they were not there. Then he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find them.
 - a) The author could have simply said they could not find the donkeys but instead we see Saul seeking and searching and coming up empty
 - b) When they came to the land of Zuph Saul was ready to throw in the towel. He said to his servant "Let's go home before my father stops worrying about the donkeys and starts worrying about us."
 - (1) But his father's servant had a better idea – he knew that a man of God (seer, prophet) was nearby and suggested they pay him a visit. Saul liked that idea, so they went to find him.
 3. After running into some women who were heading out to draw water, they discovered that the seer was in fact in town making preparations for a sacrifice.
 - a) They went up to the city. As they were coming into the city, there was Samuel, coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.
- B. God had been speaking to Samuel behind the scenes
 1. God told him that He would be sending a man from the land of Benjamin, and "you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me."
 2. When Samuel saw Saul the Lord said "that's the guy."
 3. Saul asked, "Where is the seer's house?" Samuel replied "I am the seer." – This is the moment that Saul's life changes forever
- C. Before Saul could get out another word, Samuel says...
 1. "Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today; and tomorrow I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart. But as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not be anxious about them, for they have been found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you and on all your father's house?"
 - a) Uncertainty meets certainty. Confusion meets clarity. "I know what you are seeking, they have been found."
 - b) "Who has Israel placed all its hope? All its desires? You."
 2. Saul's thinking "I'm just looking for some donkeys. What are you talking about?"
 - a) "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? Why then do you speak like this to me?"
 - b) First hint of insecurity - very similar to what we saw with another man God called upon named Gideon.

- (1) That insecurity makes perfect sense. I'm the hope of Israel? Who am I for such role? That kind of insecurity shows us Saul was in touch with reality
- D. Samuel has a few lessons for him before he sends him away
 - 1. He brought Saul into the dining hall where 30 people had gathered to greet him. Samuel led him to the seat of honor and told the cook to bring out the portion of the meal that had been set apart of Saul.
 - 2. All of this had been preordained. The lost donkeys, searching, ending up Samuel's home - God had been directing it all
 - a) Insecurity made sense if Saul was going at this alone – but he wasn't alone. He didn't have to look inside himself for confidence, or to his family – He could find that confidence in the one true God of Israel
 - 3. The next morning, as Samuel was sending Saul home, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God."

1 Sam 10:1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"

III. PRIVATE ANOINTING

- A. You are not my chosen commander, you are God's. God has chosen you to be commander (prince) over His inheritance
 - 1. ***Deut 4:20 But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.***
 - 2. This is God's nation, and He is placing them under your care.
 - a) This is where spiritual leaders get into trouble – it becomes more about building their kingdom than God's Kingdom
 - b) Paul writes ***1 Cor 4:1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.***
 - (1) Under-rower – they were rowers of the captain's boat, rowing together in time, unseen but moving the ship forward
- B. Samuel establishes the sovereignty of God and the reassurance that Saul is not alone in this

2 When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, 'The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"' 3 Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. 4 And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hands. 5 After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. 6 Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. 7 And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you. 8 You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to

you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do.”

1. Let these signs come to you – do as the occasion demands for God is with you
 - a) Seven days you shall wait, I will come to you and show you what to do next

9 So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. 10 When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. 11 And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, “What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?” 12 Then a man from there answered and said, “But who is their father?” Therefore it became a proverb: “Is Saul also among the prophets?” 13 And when he had finished prophesying, he went to the high place.

C. God gave him another heart

1. New man – this does not mean he was regenerated or born again – the presence of God came upon him for the purposes of God
2. Samson – ripped a lion apart with his bare hands
3. The significance can be found in the questions that came after – “What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?” (Became a proverb that described an impossible situation)
 - a) “Who is their father anyways?” Who are these guys anyways?
4. Saul has returned a different person – the private anointing has taken place, now it was time for the public coronation – the people needed to see that this was the man God had chosen
 - a) Seems that Saul’s uncle had an inclination that there is more going on than Saul was letting on

14 Then Saul’s uncle said to him and his servant, “Where did you go?” So he said, “To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they were nowhere to be found, we went to Samuel.” 15 And Saul’s uncle said, “Tell me, please, what Samuel said to you.” 16 So Saul said to his uncle, “He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found.” But about the matter of the kingdom, he did not tell him what Samuel had said. 17 Then Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah, 18 and said to the children of Israel, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all kingdoms and from those who oppressed you.’ 19 But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, ‘No, set a king over us!’ Now therefore, present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your clans.” 20 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. 21 When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they sought him, he could not be found. 22 Therefore they inquired of the Lord further, “Has the man come here yet?” And the Lord answered, “There he is, hidden among the equipment.” 23 So they ran and brought 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, that there is no one like him among all the people?” So all the people shouted and said, “Long live the king!” 25 Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the Lord. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. 26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant men went with him, whose hearts God had touched.

27 But some rebels said, “How can this man save us?” So they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

IV. PUBLIC CORONATION

- A. I don't believe Saul ever escaped that scared, insecure boy hiding in the luggage
 - 1. We just see insecurity grown old – plagued by jealousy, burdened by mistrust, detached from reality
- B. Lest we think this is some kind of supernatural conversation let's be reminded that this isn't the only time the Spirit of God came upon Saul and he prophesied
 - 1. God sent a distressing spirit on King Saul, calmed by the playing of a harp, eventually culminated in an attempt to pin David to the wall with a spear
 - 2. **1 Sam 19:20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. 21 And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. 22 Then he also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is at Sechu. So he asked, and said, “Where are Samuel and David?” And someone said, “Indeed they are at Naioth in Ramah.” 23 So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. 24 And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”**
 - 3. The Spirit of God exposed Saul – exposed what was in his heart – the insecurity that was present in him when he was a little boy
- C. Self-Confidence vs Confidence in Christ
 - 1. Compare that scared boy hiding in the luggage with the man who stood before Goliath
 - a) King Saul was paralyzed as he compared his army to that of the Philistines – impossible odds when looking horizontally
 - 2. David wasn't confident in his own abilities – His was confident in the God of Israel
 - 3. It's one thing to acknowledge we are sinners, it is quite another to understand we are sinners indwelt by the presence of God
 - a) Heb 13 - For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can boldly say “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”
 - b) **Phil 4:12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**
 - c) **1 Cor 2: 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**