

Third Presbyterian Church
Midweek Bible Study
I Samuel - Chapter 9/10
How to Handle Haters

1 SAMUEL 9: 16-17; 10:21-27

9:¹⁶ "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him leader over my people Israel; he will deliver my people from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked upon my people, for their cry has reached me." ¹⁷ When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people." 10:²¹ Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was chosen. Finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found. ²² So they inquired further of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD said, "Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage." ²³ They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. ²⁴ Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people." Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!" ²⁵ Samuel explained to the people the regulations of the kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the LORD. Then Samuel dismissed the people, each to his own home. ²⁶ Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched. ²⁷ But some troublemakers said, "How can this fellow save us?" They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent.

1. The sermon says “haters” show up immediately after an episode of prosperity with one thing in mind, to influence us to disregard the blessings of God.
 - A. Why do you believe that is the case
 - B. Have you experience such a thing? If so please share with the group and how did you respond to it?
2. Why is the fact that 9 people can say how good you look and we dismiss all 9 because one person disagreed with the other 9’s view of how we look? Why do we give so much power to negativity and how can we overcome this reality?
3. Discuss the following statement and how can receiving this truth help you handle haters in your life: If God wanted you to be somebody else, He would have not created you.
 - A. Imitation of others leads to Limitation of God. Agree or disagree and why
4. We expect “haters” to be in the form of enemies, but should we respond when the “haters” are friends/family members/church members?
5. What does it mean to be confidence in your purpose?
6. How does limiting who has access into our lives help us to handle haters?
7. How does remembering what we have is by divine prerogative and not human manipulation help us to handle haters?
8. Share your main takeaway from the sermon and the lesson?

The Choice of Saul to Be King: A Look at a Promising Young Man, 9:1-27

(9:1-27) Introduction—Young People, Potential, Excites People: to see a young person with great promise is an exciting thing. A child with unusual potential excites a parent. A student with an unusual hunger for knowledge excites a teacher. A young athlete with special skills excites a coach. A young politician with charisma and wisdom excites the public. A young artist with special talents stirs the audience. Whatever the area or profession, a *promising young person* stirs excitement within people.

In response to Israel's stubborn, stiff-necked demand for a king, God raised up a promising young man to become the first king of Israel. Saul is introduced for the very first time on the pages of Scripture, and the portrait painted is that of a very promising young man, a man with great potential for leadership and service as the national leader of the Israelites. Saul was impressive in appearance and carriage, very tall, handsome, and charismatic. In addition, he was trustworthy, diligent, steadfast, and industrious in carrying out his employment or whatever task was assigned to him. He was also a humble, respectful young man, indicating that his parents had trained him well. Just how Saul would turn out, the kind of leader he would prove to be, will be seen later. For now, in the present passage of Scripture, the portrait of Saul to be seen is that of a young man with enormous potential for leadership and service to the nation. This is: *The Choice of Saul to Be King: A Look at a Promising Young Man, 9:1-27*.

1. Saul was an impressive young man, very tall and impressive (v.1-2).
2. Saul was a trustworthy young man whose steps were guided by God (v.3-14).
3. Saul was chosen to be king by the LORD Himself, chosen to help and to deliver God's people (v.15-17).
4. Saul was a humble, respectful young man (v.18-27)

1. (9:1-2) Appearance, Deceitful— Judging, by Appearance— Appearance, Judging by— Appearance, Outward, Judging— Appearance, Glorifying in— Appearance, Pride in— Charisma, Dependence upon— Saul, Appearance: Saul was a very impressive young man—very tall and handsome—and he came from a powerful, wealthy family. Note what Scripture says about him:

Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest of the twelve tribes of Israel. His father was obviously one of the leaders of the tribe of Benjamin, a very wealthy land owner, a powerful man who was something like a feudal lord who took a leadership role during times of war.

In describing Saul, note what is stressed: not his character, integrity, righteousness, or wisdom, but his appearance. His outward appearance was striking, very impressive. Saul was handsome and tall, without equal among the Israelites (1 Samuel 9:2). His personal appearance and charisma struck the onlooker. Judging from outward appearance, Saul seemed to have great potential for leadership and service.

The name Saul means "asked for." This is interesting, for the people had actually asked for *a king* and God gave them Saul, a man whose very name means "asked for." What a striking point. This recalls the naming of Samuel (1:20). Remember, Samuel means "God heard." Yet, The Scripture clearly states that Hannah had asked God for a son out of a broken heart that was focused totally upon God and His wonderful blessing. Therefore, Hannah was given a son because she was seeking God with *all of her heart*. Saul on the other hand was the king who had been requested by the people, a people whose heart was focused upon the world and its distrustful ways. God gave the people a king, but not in answer to their worldly, fleshly prayer. He chose to use their carnal prayer to teach them a much-needed lesson: faith must be placed in the LORD, not in man and the ways of the world. When the people looked at Saul, they would be able to take great pride in him, for his stature, good looks, and charisma were striking—just the appearance people wanted in their leader. But note this fact: this is fleshly pride, judging a person by outward appearance. The inner qualities of the heart and mind were simply not mentioned, as though they did not exist with Saul.

Thought 1. Appearances can be deceitful, so deceitful that they lead to utter failure and destruction. Later we will see that this is exactly what happened to Saul. Despite his impressive appearance, he failed God terribly and utterly destroyed his life and service for God and the Israelites. Saul's miserable failure

teaches us that we must never judge by appearance, for appearances are deceitful and can lead to utter destruction.

Leaders are often chosen because of their charisma or appearance, more so than for their character, integrity, wisdom, and moral values. But this should never be, for it leads to weakness, failure, and sometimes destruction. This is true within families as well as government, businesses, and organizations. For example, if a man or woman marries because of the spouse's outward appearance instead of the inner qualities, the marriage will be weak and perhaps doomed to divorce. If a person is chosen to head up a business or organization because of his or her charisma, the business or organization can suffer loss.

God's Word is clear: we must not judge by appearance, by a person's charm or attractiveness. Decisions and judgments are to be based upon the heart and mind, upon the inner character, integrity, skill, initiative, and trustworthiness of a person. This is the true measure of any person, including leaders. It is the heart, not outward appearance, that truly matters.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." (Matthew 23:27).

2. (9:3-14) Trustworthy, Example of— Guidance, by God, Example of— God, Guidance of— Saul, Character, Trustworthy— Saul, Life of, Guided by God: Saul was a trustworthy young man whose steps were guided by God. This is seen clearly in the incident that happened next:

1. Saul was given an important task, that of finding a herd of lost donkeys (1 Samuel 9:3). These lost donkeys were to be used by God to bring Saul in contact with Samuel. Note that Saul's father Kish owned this herd of donkeys, a sign of extreme wealth.

2. Saul was diligent and very industrious in carrying out his tasks (1 Samuel 9:4). He crisscrossed throughout the land between the borders of Benjamin and Ephraim searching for the donkeys. But he was unsuccessful; he could not find the animals.

3. Saul demonstrated a tender heart (1 Samuel 9:5). He and the servant with him had been searching for the donkeys for over three days, having traveled far and wide, all the way into the district of Zuph, the home district of Samuel. Saul became concerned for his father, that his father would worry something had happened to him and the servant. Therefore, Saul suggested that they return home.

4. But Saul was being led by God step-by-step (1 Samuel 9:6-14). Thus Saul's suggestion to return home was not acceptable. God was working, guiding this event to bring about the meeting between Saul and Samuel, the meeting that was to appoint Saul as king of Israel. The guidance of God is seen in three events:

- a. God's guidance is seen in the servant's suggestion that they seek the counsel of a local man of God in finding the donkeys (1 Samuel 9:6-10). The term "man of God" refers to a prophet, a man who had a prophetic ministry and was recognized as a prophet.

Saul pointed out that they had nothing to give the man of God for his advice (1 Samuel 9:7). But the servant responded that he had a small silver piece that could be used to pay for his services (1 Samuel 9:8).

Note the historical footnote given by the author of Samuel: the man of God or prophet was formerly called a seer. A seer referred to a person who could give some special insight, some special discernment to those in need (1 Samuel 9:9). Both terms, *prophet* and *seer*, were used during the days of Samuel and Saul, but the term *seer* was the more popular term used among the people when they needed some special insight or discernment.

Fully knowing the value of the herd of lost donkeys, Saul immediately agreed with the servant to seek counsel from the man of God (1 Samuel 9:10).

- b. God's guidance is also seen in the directions given by some girls as they were coming out of the city of Ramah to draw water (1 Samuel 9:11-13). It was early evening when Saul and the servant entered the city, for that was when the women of ancient days came out of the cities to draw water. Seeing the

girls, Saul asked if the seer was there (1 Samuel 9:11). The girls informed him that the seer was indeed there, that he had just come to their town to lead the people in worship at the high place (1 Samuel 9:12). In fact, the seer was just ahead of them. If Saul hurried, he would catch him before he left for worship (1 Samuel 9:13).

- c. God's guidance is seen in the LORD's using stray donkeys to lead Saul to Samuel (1 Samuel 9:14). Rushing, following the information just given by the girls, Saul saw Samuel coming toward them on his way up to the high place.

Thought 1. The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD (Psalms 37:23). At this point in Saul's life, he was apparently a good, trustworthy young man. He was certainly diligent and very industrious in carrying out his tasks. He also demonstrated a tender heart, unusual feelings and concern for his father. And there is no question, God was guiding the steps of Saul to meet Samuel. God was in the process of appointing Saul to become king of Israel.

There is a strong lesson for us in God's guidance of Saul. If we are faithful in following God, seeking to be responsible and to live righteous lives, God will guide us as well. God will be with us day-by-day and guide us step-by-step. No matter how rocky the terrain, no matter how many obstacles in the path, no matter how many dangers, threats, trials, or temptations facing us—God will guide us over, around, under, or through the problem or circumstance. God will show the way. This is the wonderful promise of the Holy Bible.

"Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:78-79).

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" (John 16:13).

3. (9:15-17) Deliverance, Duty— Chosen, by God, Saul— Appointment, to Leadership— Call, Purpose of— Saul, Appointment of— King, Of Israel, Saul: Saul was chosen to be king by the LORD Himself, chosen to help and to deliver God's people. Note that God calls Israel "my people" four times in these three verses.

Although He was choosing Saul to be king of Israel, the LORD was not relinquishing His authority over the people, nor was He giving up His claim to be the true ruler over the people. He was the LORD God of the universe; consequently, the true believers among the Israelites would remain the LORD's own "treasured possession" (Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 7:6; 14:2; 26:18). Saul was to be just what all leaders are, mere caretakers of God's flock (1 Peter 5:2). Saul was just as responsible as the people were for living a righteous and holy life and for serving the LORD. His authority as king was to be exercised under the authority of the King of kings and LORD of lords.

Sometime the day before, the LORD had revealed His choice of Saul to Samuel, telling him that He would send Samuel the young man who was to be anointed leader over Israel (1 Samuel 9:15-16). The purpose for the appointment of Saul was clearly stated: he was to deliver God's people from their oppressive enemy, the Philistines. Since the very beginning of the judges, the Israelites had been suffering terrible oppression from the surrounding nations. With broken hearts, the Israelites had finally repented and turned to the LORD under the leadership of Samuel (see outline— 1 Samuel 7:1-6 and notes— 1 Samuel 7:1-6 for more discussion). In compassion and mercy, the LORD had heard their cry and was now determined to begin preparation for their deliverance. Part of that preparation was the appointment of Saul to be their leader, the first king of Israel. Thus,

as Samuel first caught sight of Saul in the distance, God spoke to his heart saying, "This is the man...he will reign over, rule, and govern my people" (1 Samuel 9:17).

Thought 1. It is God who chooses the rulers and leaders of this world. It is God who appoints men and women to serve and govern the people of this earth. Certain gifts and abilities are given to specific persons so that they can serve and carry on the functions of government, organizations, businesses, and other institutions of society. Serving others is a privilege, a privilege that is given to certain people by God. But far too often leaders violate the privilege given them, abusing their power and rights. To such abusive leaders, God warns: they will face the severest wrath of God's judgment.

But the lesson for us in this point is God's appointment. It is God who appoints men and women to leadership positions. Whether the ruler of a nation or the floor manager of a department store, the person placed in leadership is placed there by the sovereignty of God. God gifted the person with leadership ability and worked to open up the opportunity to serve. This is the clear teaching of God's Holy Word:

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" (John 15:16).

4. (9:18-27) Humility, Example of— Respect, Example of: Saul was a very humble, respectful young man. This is seen throughout the meeting between Saul and Samuel.

1. Saul, not knowing who Samuel was, approached Samuel at the gateway of the city, asking where the seer's house was. After identifying himself as the seer or prophet, Samuel immediately informed Saul of three significant facts (1 Samuel 9:18-20):

- ⇒ Saul was to eat and spend the night with Samuel and to be told all that was within his heart (1 Samuel 9:19). Imagine having the questions of one's heart, one's innermost thoughts, explained. No doubt, this was a reference to the lengthy conversations Samuel was to have with Saul through the long overnight stay. But Saul did not know this yet. Imagine his shock when he heard Samuel say that he would tell him all that was in his heart.
- ⇒ Samuel told Saul not to worry about the donkeys, for they had already been found (1 Samuel 9:20).
- ⇒ Then Samuel revealed a fact to Saul that must have shaken him to the core of his being: all the desire of Israel was now turned, focused upon Saul (1 Samuel 9:20).

2. Hearing these words, Saul demonstrated a most lowly, humble spirit (1 Samuel 9:21). He exclaimed that he was from Benjamin, the smallest tribe of Israel and from a family that was the least of all families of Benjamin. Why, then, would Samuel say such a thing to him?

This response by Saul demonstrates a lowly, humble spirit. Despite his impressive, charismatic appearance, Saul was a humble young man.

3. Saul demonstrated not only humility, but also a respectful attitude (1 Samuel 9:22-27). Samuel took Saul and his servant along with him, bringing them into the hall where he was to conduct the worship service. Note the humble respect shown by Saul during the worship feast and during his overnight stay with Samuel.

- a. Saul's respect was seen in his humility and willingness to let Samuel seat him at the head of the table during the feast (1 Samuel 9:22). The young man was a stranger in the community, and there were over thirty persons present. Uneasy feelings must have surged through his body when Samuel began to seat him at the head of the table. But he respectfully submitted to Samuel's wishes instead of protesting.
- b. Saul's respect is also seen in his willingness to receive the main portion of meat, the leg, the portion usually given to the priest (1 Samuel 9:23-24). Once the LORD had revealed to Samuel that the future king was to be his guest, Samuel had a meal prepared for the occasion (1 Samuel 9:24).

- c. Saul showed respect in accepting Samuel's invitation to spend the night and converse with him (1 Samuel 9:25). Just what they talked about is not covered by Scripture. However, the subject must have focused upon God's appointment of Saul to be king and upon the desperate needs of Israel, in particular their need to be delivered from the oppression of the Philistines.
- d. Saul showed respect in following the routine instructions of Samuel after they arose the next morning (1 Samuel 9:26). Samuel instructed the young man to get ready to return home. He even instructed Saul to send the servant on ahead but to remain behind to talk more with him (1 Samuel 9:27). Respectfully, obediently, Saul did just as Samuel instructed.
- e. Saul showed respect by listening to God's message that had been sent to him through Samuel (1 Samuel 9:27). Just what the message was will be seen in the next chapter. For now, the point to note is Saul's humble spirit and respectful attitude.

Thought 1. Saul's example of humility and respect is a strong lesson for us. Humility is essential throughout society. Lawlessness would run rampant without humility and respect. A peaceful and just society demands respect of human life and property. If there is no respect for life, there is violence, abuse, assaults, and the taking of human life. If there is no respect for property, there is stealing or destruction of property. If there is no respect for mannerly or decent behavior, there is rudeness and vulgarity.

So it is with humility. If we do not walk humbly and consider others, we exalt ourselves above others and put them down. We squash, embarrass, humiliate, mistreat, and abuse others. Humility and respect are two absolute essentials for a peaceful and just society.

1) We must walk in humility.

"And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye *shall not be so*: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve" (Luke 22:25-26).

2) We must walk in respect for others. We must show respect to others.

"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:39).

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31-32).

"Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old" (Proverbs 23:22).

The Private Anointing and Public Installation of Saul as King: Receiving a New, Changed Heart, 10:1-27

(10:1-27) Introduction— Second Chance, Fact— Conversion, Fact— Life, Fact, Can Be Changed— Deliverance, Fact— Transformation, Fact: a second chance, a new opportunity, a changed life—many a person would give anything to have such a possibility in life. They would do anything for a new opportunity to live life, to be able to alter their lives. Many have made a mess out of their lives through bad decisions that led to financial difficulties, terrible loss, painful divorce, severe accident or injury, inadequate training and education, or some addiction to alcohol, drugs, or food. Many persons would give anything to change the suffering they have to endure due to disease, sin and wickedness, guilt, discouragement, depression, stress, anxiety, and a host of other emotional and psychotic problems.

But there is wonderful, marvelous news: we can have a second chance, a new opportunity, a changed life. With whatever time remains in our lives, God will give us that chance, that new opportunity, that changed life. How? How is this possible? By conversion! Being transformed by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. God will take our lives and *convert* them, *transform* them into new lives. God will make us into *new creations*—*new persons, new men, new women, new boys, new girls*—all by His power to quicken and regenerate our lives.

The wonderful truth of conversion—the transformation of a human life—is seen in this present Scripture. God took Saul and converted or transformed him into a changed man. He raised him up to become the very first king of Israel. This is the subject of this passage in the Holy Bible: *The Private Anointing and Public Installation of Saul as King: Receiving a New, Changed Heart, 10:1-27*.

1. Saul was privately anointed as king by Samuel: a symbol of being set apart and empowered by God's Spirit (v.1-8).
2. Saul was transformed, given a new, changed heart by God: a picture of conversion (v.9-16).
3. Saul was publicly installed as king: a picture of feeling unfit and fleeing from God's call (v.17-27).

1. (10:1-8) Power, Source of— Set Apart, Source of— Anointing, Source of— Anointing, Persons Anointed— Anointing, Symbol of— Conversion, Example of— Saul, Conversion— Samuel, Ministry of: Saul was privately anointed by Samuel. Being anointed was a symbol of being set apart and empowered by God's Spirit. This is the first time a person was anointed other than the Aaronic priest and sacred objects (Leviticus 8:10-11, 30; Numbers 7:1). Remember, Saul and Samuel had just met the day before when Samuel had first revealed to Saul that he was God's choice to be king of Israel. At the invitation of Samuel, Saul had spent the night with him so they could discuss the appointment. Now, the next morning, they were walking together, probably along the path of some garden or vineyard. All kinds of emotions were bound to be running through Saul's heart and mind: utter shock and bewilderment, fear and apprehension, and all kinds of questions. But God is faithful: He always meets the needs of those He sets apart for service. Note how He dealt with Saul's doubts and met his need:

1. Saul was anointed to be the leader of God's inheritance (1 Samuel 10:1). "God's inheritance" refers to both the people of God and the promised land (Exodus 15:17; 34:9). By anointing Saul, Samuel was assuring him that God had chosen him to be the king of His people and of His land, the promised land.

Note that Samuel also kissed Saul. A kiss was simply a sign of respect, acknowledging the position of Saul, that he was hereafter the anointed leader of God's people.

2. Saul was then given four signs to confirm that he was God's choice to be king (1 Samuel 10:2-8). All four signs were to come to pass immediately, that very day. Once the signs had taken place, they would help to reinforce Saul's conviction that he was definitely God's choice to be king of Israel. All doubt hopefully would be erased.

- a. The first sign was this: as Saul traveled back home, he would meet two men who would assure him that the herd of lost donkeys had been found (1 Samuel 10:2). This encounter would take place near Rachel's tomb, at Zelzah, on the border of Benjamin. Moreover, the men would inform Saul that his father was no longer thinking about the herd of lost donkeys, but rather, was worried about the welfare of Saul. Keep in mind, this event had not yet taken place. Samuel was predicting a future event that was to take place that day, an event that was to help prove Saul's appointment. After the encounter with the two men, Saul should be assured that he was God's anointed leader.
- b. The second sign was this: soon after the first sign, Saul would meet three travelers going up to worship at Bethel (1 Samuel 10:3). Note that the very spot where the men would meet Saul was predicted by Samuel: at the great tree of Tabor. Moreover, what each of the three men would be carrying was predicted by Samuel: one would be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, and the third a skin bottle of wine. But this was not all: Samuel predicted that they would greet Saul and offer him two loaves of *holy bread* that they had intended to use in their worship (1 Samuel 10:4). Samuel instructed Saul that he was to accept the bread, for he was the LORD's anointed (21:6). By accepting the "holy bread," Saul would be symbolizing that he accepted the legitimacy of his appointment to be king.
- c. The third sign was this: as Saul continued traveling home, he would meet a procession of prophets returning from worship who would be playing music and prophesying (1 Samuel 10:5). This event was to take place at the hill of God or Gibeah of GOD, where there was a Philistine outpost. There was

obviously a *school of prophets* in the city, a school that had been founded by Samuel to train young men for a prophetic ministry among God's people. In the corrupt days of the judges and prophets, it was necessary for *schools of prophets* to be founded in order to train young men for the prophetic ministry (1 Kings 20:35; 2 Kings 2:3-7, 15; 4:1, 38; 5:22; 6:1; 9:1). The prophesying referred to here is most likely an enthusiastic, ecstatic praising of God inspired by the Holy Spirit.

- d. The fourth sign was this: God's Spirit would come upon Saul so that he himself would begin to prophesy (1 Samuel 10:6). In fact, he would be a changed, transformed person. His whole being would be converted: he would be prepared by God to be king, to serve God's people. Saul would be wonderfully transformed by the Spirit of God.

3. Once these signs were fulfilled, Saul was to carry out his duty as king to the very best of his ability (1 Samuel 10:7). Note the wonderful assurance Samuel gave Saul: "God is with you." God would show Saul how to lead the people and how to establish the kingdom of Israel. No greater assurance could be given Saul than the assurance of God's presence. Saul could not fail, not if he trusted and followed after God, for God was with him.

4. Samuel then instructed Saul to go to Gilgal and wait seven days for his coming (1 Samuel 10:8). At the end of the seven days, Samuel promised to come and conduct a worship service, presenting offerings and sacrifices to the LORD. At that time, Samuel would give Saul further instructions, telling him exactly how he was to become established as the king of Israel.

Thought 1. It is God's Spirit who comes upon us, enabling us to live life to the fullest and to do our work or to carry out the task given to us. Without the Spirit of God, we are left to confront life all alone. There is no one to help us other than the little help our families and other people might be able to give us. And the help of others is limited, coming up ever so short when we are facing the severe crises of this life. Medicine and technology can help us only so much and only for so long. Eventually some terrible hardship, misfortune, accident, or disease happens or else the inevitable declining health of age grips us and we die. The Spirit of God is needed to give us the fullness of life and to help us carry out the tasks and duties of life. For this reason, we must cry out for the Spirit of God to come upon us and equip us for life.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him" (Luke 11:13).

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:16-17).

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

2. (10:9-16) Conversion, Picture of— Transformation, Example of— Heart, Changed— Saul, Conversion of— Holy Spirit, Came upon— Prophecy, Example of— Humility, Example— Saul, Humility of: Saul was transformed, given a new, changed heart by God. This is definitely a picture of Saul's spiritual conversion or either a significant moment of spiritual growth for Saul. The Scripture graphically describes the experience of Saul:

1. All four signs predicted by Samuel were fulfilled that very day. But it was the fourth sign that was significant.

2. The Spirit of God came upon Saul in power, and he prophesied just as predicted (1 Samuel 10:10-12). As Saul was entering the city of Gibeah, the procession of prophets met him as predicted by Samuel. Immediately,

the Spirit of God overpowered him, and he joined in their prophesying. Note how this bore a strong testimony to his transformation, his changed heart. People walking by or either standing around noted the change in Saul and began to question what exactly had happened to him. Had he now become a disciple of the prophets? One man who lived there in the city asked who the father or leader of the prophet was. He wondered who could bring about such a transformation, so powerful a change in the life of Saul. The change in this promising young man's life was so dramatic that the question became a proverb throughout the land: "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

After the experience, a spirit of humility and wisdom gripped Saul (1 Samuel 10:13-16). He immediately went up to worship, and then returned home. Note how he humbly and wisely concealed from his relatives the experience of being privately anointed as king (1 Samuel 10:14-16). Saul's uncle asked him and his servant where they had been. In reply, Saul simply said they had been looking for the donkeys, but when they could not find them, they went to Samuel for help. Hearing this, Saul's uncle asked him what Samuel had said. Saul simply replied that Samuel had assured them that the donkeys had been found. He said nothing whatsoever about being anointed king of Israel. Note two simple facts: Saul guarded against pride and boasting, trusting God to carry out His plan and the timing to inform the public of his appointment as king.

Thought 1. A changed, transformed life—this is the will of God for every human being. If we are to conquer the trials and temptations, problems and difficulties of this life; if we are to be victorious over sin and wickedness, over enemies and those who attempt to defeat and destroy us; if we are to triumph over death and hell—we must be *converted*. We must be *born again* by the Spirit of God. This is the clear teaching of God's Holy Word.

"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

3. (10:17-27) Call, of God, Fleeing from— Ministry, Fleeing from— Service, Fleeing from— Minister, Inadequacy of— Service, Inadequacy of— King, Installation of— Saul, Installation as King: Saul was publically installed as king. As quickly as he could, Samuel sent messengers all over Israel to summon the leaders and people to Mizpah. There they would meet for the installation service of their first king. Saul had already experienced a private anointing by Samuel that was for his own personal benefit and encouragement, assuring him that he was definitely God's appointed king. But now, it was time for Saul to be publically proclaimed and installed as the first king of Israel. What happened is most interesting:

1. Surprisingly, as soon as the leaders and people had assembled for the installation service, Samuel leveled a strong charge against the Israelites (1 Samuel 10:18-19). The LORD had given Samuel a very special message for the people, a message of severe condemnation, a strong indictment against them. Samuel declared that the LORD had saved them from Egypt and delivered them from all the surrounding kings who had oppressed them. But now, tragically, they had rejected God. Ever since their deliverance from Egypt, God had been their Ruler, their Savior and Guide, their Protector. But now here they were, demanding to be ruled by an earthly king, demanding that their deliverance and provision be dependent upon an earthly ruler.

Nevertheless, God would not reject their demand: they would be given their earthly ruler. They would be allowed to live under the dominating authority of an earthly king. Thus, Samuel called upon the people to present themselves before the LORD by their tribes and clans or families.

2. After the people had gathered together by their tribes and clans, Samuel began to choose the king by lot (1 Samuel 10:21). Obviously, this act was carried out for the sake of the people—to publically substantiate that Saul was definitely God's anointed choice to be king. Samuel already knew the fact, but the public needed clear

evidence. Thus, Samuel cast the sacred lots, depending upon God to publically indicate that Saul was His choice. At the first casting of the lots, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. Then with each cast, clan by clan and family by family were eliminated until, finally, Saul was chosen. The LORD directed the lots to fall upon His appointed choice to be the first king of Israel, the young man Saul.

3. But note what had happened: Saul had fled from God's call. He could not be found (1 Samuel 10:21). Even after an extensive search, he still could not be found. The leaders had no choice but to seek the LORD as to his whereabouts. Somehow, the LORD gave indication that he was hiding in the baggage or equipment storage area (1 Samuel 10:22). Hearing this, some of the leaders ran and brought him out, presenting him to the people. As Saul stood there, he stood a head taller than anyone else, an impressive height and appearance (1 Samuel 10:23).

4. Samuel then made the public presentation and acclamation of Saul as king. No doubt standing upon a platform or elevated spot, he cried out for the multitude to look and see the man the LORD had chosen. There was no one like him among the people, no one who stood head and shoulders above others, presenting such an impressive, charismatic appearance. At this, the people shouted out: "God save the king" or "Long live the king."

5. Samuel then explained the regulations that were to govern the king of Israel (1 Samuel 10:25). There was a dire need to clearly spell out the difference between the king of God's people and the kings of the surrounding nations. God's king was to rule under the authority of God and His holy commandments. Just what were the regulations that Samuel explained to the people? Scripture does not say, but most likely they included instructions of the LORD given earlier by Moses and Samuel himself (Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1 Samuel 8:11-18). Note that the regulations were written down by Samuel and then placed in the Tabernacle. This was a clear symbol that the regulations in God's Word were to govern the king.

6. Samuel then adjourned the meeting and dismissed the people to return home. Saul returned to his home in Gibeah, which became the temporary capital city of Israel. Note that some valiant men accompanied Saul, stirred by God to become his personal honor guard (1 Samuel 10:26). However, scattered throughout the nation, there were some troublemakers who despised Saul and rejected his kingship (1 Samuel 10:27). Scripture calls them "sons of Belial," which means wicked men, scoundrels or men under the control and influence of the devil. These men refused to bring gifts and pay honor to Saul. But Saul, showing patience, did not react. He did not have them executed. Instead, he kept silent and ignored them.

Thought 1. Saul ran from the call of God. No doubt he felt inadequate, insufficient, unqualified for the task. In his flight and feelings of inadequacy, he is a picture of so many who flee from God's call. Within every community and church, and practically every family, God has called some persons to reach out and minister to others. Often, He has called persons to serve full time in the church. Others have been called to the great cause of world evangelism and service. But in many cases, individuals have fled from God's call, hiding themselves and refusing to surrender their lives to the LORD. But the Holy Bible warns:

"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:26-27).