

## **God Calls Saul**

Series: When God Calls

1 Samuel 8-10 (1815)

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### **I. A tough act to follow**

#### **a. Historically God led the Israelites through the prophets and judges**

1 Samuel 8:1-3 NLT *As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel. ...*

<sup>3</sup> *But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice.*

#### **b. But now the Israelites decided they wanted a King**

1 Samuel 8:4-9 NLT <sup>4</sup> *Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. <sup>5</sup> "Look," they told him, "you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have." <sup>6</sup> Samuel was displeased with their request and went to the Lord for guidance. <sup>7</sup> "Do everything they say to you," the Lord replied, "for they are rejecting me, not you. They don't want me to be their king any longer. <sup>8</sup> Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment. <sup>9</sup> Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about the way a king will reign over them."*

### **II. God chose Saul, confirming his choice through Samuel**

#### **a. God affirmed his call very clearly**

1 Samuel 9:9 NLT *(In those days if people wanted a message from God, they would say, "Let's go and ask the seer," for prophets used to be called seers.)*

1 Samuel 9:14-20 NLT <sup>14</sup> *So they entered the town, and as they passed through the gates, Samuel was coming out toward them to go up to the place of worship. <sup>15</sup> Now the Lord had told Samuel the previous day, <sup>16</sup> "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him to be the leader of my people, Israel. He will rescue them from the Philistines, for I have looked down on my people in mercy and have heard their cry." <sup>17</sup> When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said, "That's the man I told you about! He will rule my people." <sup>18</sup> Just then Saul approached Samuel at the gateway and asked, "Can you please tell me where the seer's house is?" <sup>19</sup> "I am the seer!" Samuel replied. "Go up to the place of worship ahead of me. We will eat there together, and in the morning I'll tell you what you want to know and send you on your way. <sup>20</sup> And don't worry about those donkeys that were lost three days ago, for they have been found. And I am here to tell you that you and your family are the focus of all Israel's hopes."*

#### **b. But there were those who would never have chosen Saul as their King**

1 Samuel 9:21 NLT <sup>21</sup> Saul replied, "But I'm only from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe in Israel, and my family is the least important of all the families of that tribe! Why are you talking like this to me?"

1 Samuel 10:21-22 NLT<sup>20</sup> So Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel before the Lord, and the tribe of Benjamin was chosen by lot. <sup>21</sup> Then he brought each family of the tribe of Benjamin before the Lord, ... And finally Saul son of Kish was chosen from among them. But when they looked for him, he had disappeared! <sup>22</sup> So they asked the Lord, "Where is he?" And the Lord replied, "He is hiding among the baggage."

1 Samuel 10:27 NLT <sup>27</sup> But there were some scoundrels who complained, "How can this man save us?" And they scorned him and refused to bring him gifts. But Saul ignored them.

1 Samuel 16:7 NLT The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

**c. But the one God calls he also equips**

1 Samuel 10:5-7 NLT <sup>5</sup> "When you arrive at Gibeah of God, where the garrison of the Philistines is located, you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the place of worship. They will be playing a harp, a tambourine, a flute, and a lyre, and they will be prophesying. <sup>6</sup> At that time the Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person. <sup>7</sup> After these signs take place, do what must be done, for God is with you.