

Chasing Donkeys or Fighting Giants

Week 1

1SA 9:3 Now the donkeys belonging to Saul's father Kish were lost, and Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the servants with you and go and look for the donkeys." **4** So he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and through the area around Shalisha, but they did not find them. They went on into the district of Shaalim, but the donkeys were not there. Then he passed through the territory of Benjamin, but they did not find them.

The very first image we have of Saul, other than a basic physical description in 9:1 is that he is out chasing donkeys. Now that doesn't seem to class to us but possibly it was a bit of responsibility. He gets to take a servant to help out. Realistically though we need to ask why did the donkeys get lost and why so far away.

Possibly it was God's way of getting Saul to Samuel. Possible it was just bad farm management, maybe a thunderstorm scared them a bit. Hey we don't know. It would be convenient if we had an idea so we could better judge Saul's character.

But a couple of things here.

1. Saul gets bad press. (He is always compared to David.)
2. At this stage – He is God's man.

But we do get some interesting insights and maybe a bit of a glimpse at his future leadership qualities. After hearing Samuel speak, seeing the prophecies come true, he doesn't say anything.

Remember in the passage Samuel says all these things will happen on that day to verify for Saul it is fair dinkum. But he doesn't say anything.

1SA 10:15 Saul's uncle said, "Tell me what Samuel said to you."

1SA 10:16 Saul replied, "He assured us that the donkeys had been found." But he did not tell his uncle what Samuel had said about the kingship.

A couple of possibilities here.

1. He was scared a. Of the job, b. of his uncle, c. getting laughed at.

2. He didn't believe Samuel (Despite prophecy coming true)
3. Donkeys are more important than being king.
4. One more – didn't understand this king thing.

1SA 10:20 When Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. 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."

He same 4 issues as the last point could be brought up here.

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Lets be realistic, this is not a great introduction to a man of God. Putting what else we know about Saul aside. This is pretty amazing. God wanted to use a guy who couldn't even find his donkeys.

But there are a couple of things we can learn here.

- a. **God even uses chickens.** (Not the feathered kind, although He can use them as well. The ones that run away.)
- b. **God see's potential in us that we perhaps don't.** Saul was God's man. He chose Saul not Samuel. God wanted Saul, even though God knew his deficiencies. He gave Saul the chance. We need to give people the chance but also give ourselves the chance.
- c. **When you hide from God's work you still will get found.**