



Part 9 - “When the Unexpected Happens” | 1 Samuel 9 | Jan. 11, 2026

→ **The Providence of God:** God reigns over creation and history, working through human choices and natural events, without endorsing or causing everything that happens.

→ **Consider This:** God doesn’t just show up when life falls apart. **God is always near**, even in the ordinary moments of life.

1 Samuel 8 — Israel asked for a human king (rejecting Yahweh)

1 Samuel 9 — God’s plan would unfold even in the midst of Israel’s rejection

→ 1 Samuel 9:1-10 Notes

- **Kish** = Saul’s father; from the tribe of Benjamin; very wealthy (“man of standing”)
- **Saul** = “handsome”? Yes, but it’s more than that...
 - Hebrew = *tob* - meaning “good” (Genesis 1)
 - Saul was “good” in their eyes
 - No mention of Yahweh being with him — **that’s unsettling!**
 - “**Saul**” (Hebrew) means “to **ask**” or “**beg** for”
- **The servant** = a trusted household ‘employee,’ paid to handle daily tasks
- “**man of God**” = a phrase referring to the prophet Samuel

→ **Consider This:** It’s interesting that Saul had no idea Samuel was in town. God worked through the servant to point Saul in the right direction.

→ 1 Samuel 9:11-24 Notes

- (v11-13) God worked through the women at the well to point Saul in the right direction
- (v15-17) The heart of the passage
 - The LORD had been revealing Himself to Samuel for decades
 - The closeness of their relationship is clear (v17)

➡ When we're walking with God, whether we hear His voice or not, part of seeking God's Kingdom is **living with the awareness of His providence** — He is with us, He is faithful, and He's in control. We don't have to drift with the undercurrent of uncertainty.

- (v18) Samuel recognizes Saul — Saul doesn't recognize Samuel
- (v20) The donkeys have been found
- (v20) Samuel's saying: *What Israel desires as 'good' is now placed on you.*
- (v21) Saul's response = genuinely confused
- **Notice:** There's no mention of Saul becoming king
- (v22-24) No celebration — the writer wants us to feel the **tragedy**
 - The one who embodies Israel's rejection is now seated at the table. He's being honored instead of the LORD.

➡ God remains faithful and sovereign even when His people's desires are **misaligned**

The Two Tables:

- **Saul's Table** = Israel honors the king they asked for
- **Jesus' Table** (communion) = God reveals the King they needed

➡ **Consider This:** Jesus does not step out of the story when things go wrong. He steps into it. Psalm 23 reminds us that the table is prepared for us *in the valley*. Meaning that the LORD is with us — His goodness is always near.

➡ **Main Takeaway:** When the unexpected happens, a faithful posture isn't **anxiety**... It's **curiosity** *about what the LORD might be doing next.*