



**The People's Choice**  
**1 Samuel 9:1 - 17**  
**April 28, 2019**  
**Sermon Questions**

1. 1 Samuel 9 describes Israel's desire to have a king. What was so wrong with their request? If it was so wrong, why did God grant their request?

2. Pastor Jim said, "Leaders will always disappoint us." Like Israel, do we tend to look for things from leaders that they cannot give? Why do people tend to expect more from leaders than they can give?

3. 1 Samuel 9 shows us how God is at work in ordinary human events, producing results that we don't intend...like Saul involved with chasing donkeys. Can you recall how God has done that in your life?

4. If we look at the results of our plans and agenda's, most do not go as expected. The commentator cited by Pastor Jim noted that unless we can see the weaver (God's providence) in the midst of our plans, we will be misguided. How can you be aware of and trust in God's providence more deeply?

5. If God typically works as described above, how do you balance setting goals and making plans while, simultaneously, knowing that God may have some other, less obvious plan for you?

6. "Unlike people, the more you get to know Jesus, the better it gets," stated Pastor Jim. After listening to this sermon, in what ways might you look at people/leaders differently? At Jesus differently?

**1 Samuel 9:1-17 (ESV)**

9 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. 2 And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

3 Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." 4 And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them.

5 When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant[a] who was with him, "Come, let us go back, lest my father cease to care about the donkeys and become anxious about us." 6 But he said to him, "Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go." 7 Then Saul said to his servant, "But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?" 8 The servant answered Saul again, "Here, I have with me a quarter of a shekel[b] of silver, and I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way." 9 (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, "Come, let us go to the seer," for today's "prophet" was formerly called a seer.) 10 And Saul said to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was.

11 As they went up the hill to the city, they met young women coming out to draw water and said to them, "Is the seer here?" 12 They answered, "He is; behold, he is just ahead of you. Hurry. He has come just now to the city, because the people have a sacrifice today on the high place. 13 As soon as you enter the city you will find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat till he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately." 14 So they went up to the city. As they were entering the city, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.

15 Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel: 16 "Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince[c] over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen[d] my people, because their cry has come to me." 17 When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, "Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people."