

GO SEEK THE ASSES

1 SAMUEL 9

Text: 1 Samuel 9:3

(1 Sam 9:3) "And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses."

Introduction:

Give brief history outline on the nation of Israel.

1. Review how that Joseph was hated by his brothers. (Gen 37:3)
2. As a result he was sold to a company of Ishmeelites going to Egypt. (Gen 37:25)
3. After arriving to Egypt, Joseph was then sold to Potiphar.
4. After being sold to Potiphar, God was with him and shortly Potiphar was made his overseer.
5. After serving Potiphar and being tempted by Potiphar's wife, he was then lied about and thrown into prison.

6. After going to prison, God was still with him and gave him favor with the guard, and Joseph was placed in charge of the prisoners.
7. After being in prison for 2 years Pharaoh dreamed a dream and seeking for someone to interpret that dream sent for Joseph in prison.
8. He was then made 2nd in command under Pharaoh.
9. Everything that Joseph had told to Pharaoh came to pass and because of his actions, Egypt avoided starvation and destruction during the famine.
10. Jacob sends Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy corn, and eventually the family was reunited in Egypt.
11. After Joseph's death a new king arose and had become threatened by the children of Israel. This resulted in Israel becoming slaves in Egypt.
12. Finally Moses was born and after being sent to the back side of the desert was summoned at the burning bush to lead the children of Israel out of the bondage in Egypt.
13. After many plagues, signs and wonders, the children of Israel were sent free.

14. What a journey that was. God took wonderful care of them as they made their way to the promise land.

15. After 40 years of wondering in the wilderness, they finally are permitted into the promise land.

Keep in mind who it was that had led them up until this time. It was God. After several years and several battles and having many ups and downs Israel decides they would be better off with a king to rule and guide them rather than God and God's man.

Read 1 Sam 8:1-5, 19-20

That brings us to the passage we have read.

Notice:

1. GOD'S PLAN

A. God never intended for Israel to be led by a king but rather desired to lead them through His man.

Read 1 Sam 8:7-18

(1 Sam 12:12) "And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the LORD your God was your king."

2. PEOPLE'S PREFERENCE

(1 Sam 8:19-20) "Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; {20} That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles."

A. Sometimes God gives people what they prefer outside His plan.

Read Numbers 32:1-6, 16-23

B. God never intended on any tribe staying on the east side of Jordan, but permitted it.

3. SAUL'S PREPARATION (1 SAM 9)

He left seeking the asses, and returned home the king.

Notice the steps of his preparation and calling.

A. He went through Ephraim.

Ephraim was a place of fruitfulness. A place of blessing.

B. He then went through Shalisha.

Shalisha was a place of intensity.

C. He then went through Shalim

Shalim was a place of foxes. A place of deceit, and slyness.

D. He then went to the land of Zuph.

Zuph was a place of honey and sweetness.

E. They then went to see the man of God.

Applications:

- Each day of our lives is preparing us for the next day, weeks, months and years.
- Thank God for that place of fruitfulness that He allows us to enjoy.
- But there will be days and times of intensity that we must go through.
- There will be places that we will go through that foxes will run wild. Slyness and deception.
- But thank God for the times He allows us to go the Zuph the place of honey and sweetness.

- Finally after seeking in all of these places the seek the man of God. Many of us are like that today as well.
- I often wonder how things would have been if they had sought God's man first.
- All of these prepared Saul for the task of kingship.

It took the departing of the asses and the seeking of the asses to bring Saul to the place he needed to be.

4. KING'S PRIDE

When God prepares & places us, be careful not to become full of pride.

Saul was clearly guilty of at least 4 sins.

A. Pride (Took credit for what Johnathan had done.) [1 Sam. 13:1-4]

It's amazing as we compare Saul's attitude now and his attitude before his announcement as king.

(1 Sam 9:21) "And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?"

B. Impatience (Instead of waiting on the man of God to offer the sacrifice, Saul chose to perform the act.) [1 Sam 13:10-14]

C. Foolish vows [1 Sam. 14]

(1 Sam 14:24) "And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food."

(1 Sam 14:39) "For, as the LORD liveth, which saveth Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die. But there was not a man among all the people that answered him."

(1 Sam 14:44) "And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan."

D. Direct disobedience [1 Sam 15]

1. Partial obedience is complete disobedience.

Close:

As God leads us along and prepares us for His work, and establishes us in the work, may we never be lifted up in pride.

As we move from place to place, may we not become bitter as we are being prepared in the places of intensity, and in places with foxes, but realize that there will be a place of honey and sweetness someday.