

BIG ANOUNCEMENT: 2 SERVICES

- We've run out of room!
- Starting in 2-weeks, **SLIDE** Sunday, February 13th, we'll start two services.
- The times will be 8:45a & 10:45a
 - Everyone will have to pick their service
- Fathom Kids & Fathom Youth programming at the 8:45a only.
- If you don't have kids, please come to the 10:45a
- We need more help, specifically with greeting team, coffee team, security team, and worship tech team.
- Sign-up to serve at fathomchurch.org/serve

SAMUEL SLIDE

INTRODUCE

Well, good morning church! If I haven't met you yet, my name is Chris Martin, and I'm the Lead Pastor here.

If you've got your Bibles, and I hope you do, please open them up to 1 Samuel chapter 10. 1 Samuel 10. That's where we're going to be.

We want every person to have a hand on their Bible. You can open your phone or tablet to 1 Samuel 10. That's on page **232** in those Bibles under the chairs.

INTRODUCTION: CHANGE MAJOR

I have a confession to make to y'all.

- When I was a freshman in college
- I changed my major three times...
- in the first three weeks!

You see, when it was time for college, the question that was asked was,

- *“What are you going to major in?”*
- *“What are you going to study?”*
 - And that implied,
- *“What are you going to do with your life?”*

And when I was a senior in high-school, I had no real idea about what I wanted to do.

- All I really knew was that I loved Jesus.
 - I had just become a Christian.
- And the other thing I knew...
 - was that I wanted to be in a band...
 - or a singer/songwriter...
 - or do something with music.

And I didn't really know how those two things: Jesus and music...collided.

So, a mentor of mine said,

- *“Chris, why don't you go to college to study music,*
- *but make it a Christian college and do music ministry.”*

Well, that sounded good to me!

So, I went to CCU for their music ministry program,

- But, it came as something of a shock
- when I realized in the first week of school
- that the music ministry degree
- was more focused on traditional church music,
 - like choirs and orchestras...
- and I just wanted to be in a worship band.

So, in week 2, I went to the admin building, and changed my major to “undeclared”.

But, another thing happened in those first couple weeks of college.

- I started a couple of bible classes.
 - And I had been raised in public school,
 - So, I had never had a Bible class.
- But I fell in love studying the bible in these classes.

So, in week 3 of college I went back to the admin building and changed my major, from “undeclared” to jump into the school of theology.

- So, yes, I will admit it.
- I changed my major three times
- in the first three weeks of college.

And the confession continues, because I changed my focus of study four times in seminary.

So, I might have a problem!

TRANSITION

But, how do you know God's will for your life?

- It seemed like every Christian I met knew God's call for them!
 - *"I'm called to be a teacher"*
 - *"I'm called to be a doctor"*
- But I was so confused about what God's call was for me.
- And so, I kept flipping and flopping to figure it out.

And that's what we're going to see in our text today.

So, today we get part two of last week's story.

- Last week in a story about lost donkeys...
- that was really NOT about lost donkeys, right?
- God providentially brings Saul to meet the prophet Samuel,
- and Samuel reveals that Saul will be the first king of Israel.

And our text today, 1 Samuel 10, pick up right there. We'll actually start in chapter 9, verse 27:

1 SAMUEL 9:27-10:1a

[27] As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to pass on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God."

[1] Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies."

EXPLAIN

So, if there was any confusion before about what God was calling Saul to be, it is clear now.

- Samuel secretly anoints Saul to be the king!
- So, he's got this call from God on his life.

But, there's still a journey for Saul to actualize that calling.

- And I think the journey he goes on is applicable to us as well.

So, let's look at this. We'll start with the rest of verse 1 and go to verse 6.

1 SAMUEL 10:1b-6

And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his heritage. [2] When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, 'The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"' [3] Then you shall go on from there farther and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. [4] And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from their hand. [5] After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying.

[6] Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.

EXPLAIN

When it comes to Saul's calling to become the king of Israel, Samuel makes him three assurances, all of which will come true.

- Samuel predicts that Saul would meet two men
 - who say that the donkeys have been found.
- Samuel predicts that three men will meet Saul...
 - with three goats,
 - three loaves of bread,
 - and one skin of wine,
 - AND they will give you two of those loaves.
 - This is an INCREDIBLY precise prediction!
- And he predicts that Saul would meet a group of prophets,
 - who are essentially doing some sort of worship service,
 - playing their music,
 - and the books of Chronicles make it clear
 - that part of their prophesying was singing.
 - So, this isn't the same sort of prophesying as Samuel is doing,
 - it's more like a gifted worship service.
 - But he says that the Spirit of God would rush upon Saul.
 - And that he will prophesy with them.
 - Like, he's gonna join the worship band.

POINT 1

So, let me make my first point here:

SLIDE WHAT GOD CALLS YOU TO, HE'LL CONFIRM IN YOU

Now, it probably won't happen just like this for you. You won't have a prophet predict all these things for you like Samuel did for Saul.

But, back to what we said last week...

- God uses ordinary,
- everyday,
- normal events and occurrences
- to SHOW us...
- to ASSURE us...
- to CONFIRM to us...
- that he is with us and that he is for us.

All those JUST SO HAPPENED things in our lives are not simply coincidence.

He'll confirm that calling. And that can come in all sorts of little ways.

ILLSTRATION: CHURCH PLANTING

So, when I started to discern that God was leading me to plant this church, I remember there were just a number of things that confirmed that call to me.

First, when Maryse and I were dating in college:

- I first heard about Acts 29 and church planting,
- and even back then, I was like,
- *“Man, I think I might like to do that.”*

And I told Maryse,

- *“You know babe, at some point*
- *I think I might want to plant a church.”*

And she said, *“not if you marry me you aren’t.”*

You see, the problem was that Maryse wasn’t as in tune to God’s voice back then. She just didn’t hear it as quickly.

Well, if you know the story:

- we got married,
- and every year-or-so
- I’d get the church planting bug,
- and I’d ask her about it,
- and she’d shoot it down.

Until she eventually submitted to the Holy Spirit...

But honestly, a big confirmation for me, was her.

I wasn’t going to do this thing unless she was all in, as well.

Second, while I was preparing to plant this church,

- there were a select few men...
- who I placed myself under.
- I sought wise counsel from these men,
- and essentially asked them to tell it to me as it is.
- Was I hearing God correctly that I should plant this church?
- And if they had said, *“No!”*
- I wouldn’t have planted this church.

And the third confirmation was:

- I was with some friends...
- asking them to pray about joining us in this plant.
 - And the gal, who I'd known for years,
 - told me to hold on.
- She went and got her prayer journal,
- and opened it up to an entry from a couple years earlier,
- and she showed me that was when she started praying
 - for me to plant a church.
- Now, she'd never shared that with me before.

But it was another confirmation.

TRANSITION

God probably isn't calling you to something that no one else confirms in you. So, you'll have to look at your life and ask, "*Where has God SHOWN me that I'm called?*"

You see, WHAT GOD CALLS YOU TO, HE'LL CONFIRM IN YOU.

BLANK SLIDE

But that's not it.

So, I want to skip verses 7 & 8 and we'll circle back to them.

Let's pick up in verse 9:

1 SAMUEL 10:9

[9] When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day.

So, the text just said that all these signs came to pass.

- The two guys with the message about the donkeys,
- the three guys with the bread,
- and the prophet worship band.

All three come to pass that day.

But interestingly, only the third is further mentioned.

Look at verse 10.

1 SAMUEL 10:10-13

[10] When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them. [11] And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, “What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?” [12] And a man of the place answered, “And who is their father?” Therefore it became a proverb, “Is Saul also among the prophets?” [13] When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

POINT 2

So, Saul is given the ability to prophecy with this prophet band.

- Remember, back to what I said.
- Likely, Saul just busted out in song with these guys.
 - Like, “Get me one of them tambourines!”

And people are shocked. Why?

Because this wasn't the kind of thing Saul did!

- It's like Saul couldn't sing...
- and then all of a sudden, he could!

And this is where I want to make my second point:

SLIDE WHAT GOD CALLS YOU TO, HE'LL EQUIP YOU FOR

- Saul is equipped.
- He is equipped by God's power,
- to carry out this calling that is coming upon him.

And just note that God doesn't call Saul BECAUSE he's equipped.

He doesn't make him prophecy...

- because he went to school,
- and studied prophesy,
- and took choir,
- and was a master tambourine-ist.

God doesn't call the equipped, he's equips the called.

- He equips for the calling he gives.

And it's not just for kings.

- Sometimes we might be shocked or even staggered
- by the calling that God gives us at certain points in our lives,
- and we might even wonder if we can handle it.

But that seems to be the point here.

NO ONE THINKS THAT SAUL CAN HANDLE THIS STUFF!

Saul has no business with these prophets!

But God equips for the calling he gives.

ILLUSTRATION: REUNION

So, a number of years back I got the invitation to my 10-year high school reunion, and actually, I've got number 20 coming next year.

And at the time I was working as a youth pastor. And frankly, ministry was going really well...

- I'd seen kids come to Christ,
- grown the ministry,
- baptized people,
- seen families restored...
- all things to feel proud about.

But I can distinctly remember getting that invitation to my high school reunion, and an immediate guilt and fear came over me. Just at the pit level of my stomach.

You see, before getting saved...man, I was really a train wreck. I mean, I told you about getting arrested last week, but that was just the cherry on top!

And I just felt like someone at the reunion was going to say,

- *"Hey, you're a pastor now?"*
- *"After what you were in high school?"*

And I would have no justification...

Because, listen, I KNOW WHAT I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.

- If you knew me in high school,
 - you'd know that I had no business working in a church.
- If you knew me in high school,
 - you'd know that I had no business talking about Jesus.

- If you knew me in high school,
 - you'd know that the church should vote unanimously,
 - *"We're sorry...you're just not pastor material."*

And listen, I had no excuse for it, because I KNEW IT WAS ALL TRUE!

- I remember high school...
 - well, some of it.
- It's the thing that I prayed to God I'd never go back to.
- I hoped I never run into people from the Springs up here...
- Cause I was embarrassed...and ashamed...

And that's why the text says this became a proverb.

- *"What? Chris is a pastor now?"*
- *Is Saul also among the prophets?"*

APPLICATION

Have you been there?

Oh, our pasts can leave us paralyzed with fear or guilt.

And you can't move forward.

- What have you done?
- What's been done to you?
- What is that thing that
 - when you're in church
 - and you start feeling something,
 - and you want to worship,
 - and you want to lift your hands.

- But inside that little voice goes,
 - *“Really! You?”*
 - *You remember what you did with those hands?*
 - *Put ‘em down.”*

What is it that keeps you faking it here at church?

- Just whispering to you,
 - *“If people really knew...*
 - *they would never love or accept you.*
 - *They’d show you the door.”*
- What’s her name?
- What’s his name?
- What’s the event?
- What’d you do?
- What was done to you?

Our pasts can leave us

- PARALYZED WITH **FEAR**,
- **OR** PARALYZED WITH **GUILT**.
- OR BOTH!

BUT...WHAT GOD CALLS YOU TO, HE WILL EQUIP YOU FOR.

This is the good news of the Gospel.

- The old Chris.
- The Chris from high school.
- That Chris no longer exists.
- That Chris has been crucified with Christ.

- That Chris has been called...
 - called to follow Christ,
 - and now called to call others to that same place.

ILLUSTRATION: AUGUSTINE

There's an account of St. Augustine that helps us in this point:
Before he was a Christian Augustine was pretty much a sex addict:

- prostitutes,
- illegitimate children,
- etc.

But the story goes that after his conversion,

- he met an old girlfriend in the street.
- And she came up to him and said,
- *"Augustine, how are you?"*

All seductively. And he said,

- *"I'm fine.*
- *Thank you very much.*
- *Good to see you."*

And he was very cordial, but then he walked away.

- None of the kind of slobbering from him
- that she used to remember.

And she wondered... *"Hey, maybe he didn't recognize her..."*

So, she followed after him and said,

- *"Augustine...Augustine!..."*
- *Augustine, it is I."*

And he turned to her and said,

- *“Yes, I know.*
- *But it is not I.”*

TRANSITION

WHAT GOD CALLS YOU TO, HE’LL CONFIRM IN YOU.

But then, don’t let your past failures get in the way, because...

WHAT GOD CALLS YOU TO, HE’LL EQUIP YOU FOR.

BLANK SLIDE

And now, let’s circle back to verses 7 and 8.

- This is right after Samuel makes the predictions over Saul,
- and right before he goes and prophecies.

1 SAMUEL 10:7-8

[7] Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you. [8] Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do.”

POINT 3

Now, this is very interesting.

- Saul isn’t told to go and find the two donkey men.
- He isn’t told to go find the three dudes with tree goats.
- He isn’t told to go to find those prophets.

He's just told to GO.

- The commandment for him is to go.
 - Go to Gilgal.
 - Wait for Samuel.
 - Go and do what your hand finds to do.

WHAT GOD CALLS YOU TO, HE'LL CONFIRM IN YOU.

WHAT GOD CALLS YOU TO, HE'LL EQUIP YOU FOR.

But finally,

SLIDE WHAT GOD CALLS YOU TO, HE'LL REQUIRE YOU OBEY

What is required of Saul?

- Obedience to God's word.

God's call is often simpler than we make it out to be.

- We try to manufacture, when God simply says:
- *"go...and I'll show you what you shall do."*
- It's obedience that is necessary.

APPLICATION

Gosh, so often I meet people who ask me about God's call for their life.

- They're waiting on a word from the Lord.
- *"God, just tell me what to do!"*
- *"Give me a new word!"*

But listen, some of you don't need a new word from God today.

He's already spoken to you!

- You don't need a new word...
- you need to go back to THE word,
- and you need to listen to it again,
- and you need to obey it completely!

Sometimes people tell me:

- *"Chris, I just don't feel God. I don't hear God.*
- *I don't know what he wants from me."*

And I quickly respond with:

- *"are you in his word?*
- *Are you obedient to what he's already said?*
- *Why do you think you'd hear something fresh from the Lord,*
- *when you fail to read his very words provided for you?"*

I DO think God can speak to and call to us specifically,

- but he will never do so if you aren't first rooted...
- in his general call to every believer...
- to know him through his word.

God has commanded every believer some things that we don't even have to debate about.

- Are you gathering with the church and worshipping him?
- Are you using your gifts to serve the church?
- Are you sharing the gospel with those around you?
- Are you praying?
- Are you digging deeper in your own faith journey?

Don't look for God's specific word for you, if you haven't been faithful with his written word for you.

EXPLAIN: OBEDIENCE

- God confirms Saul's call,
- but before he'll get that equipping,
- he's gonna have to obey!

And the same is true for us.

- Yes, there may be some complexity to your specific calling,
 - but basically, for every one of us,
- our primary calling is to fully submit to God's word
 - in all of our lives...
 - and then do what your hand finds to do.

There's this really fascinating verse in Deuteronomy 10 that I think if you are a Bible memorizer, you should put to memory. It was read over us this morning.

It's life verse material, ok? I'll put it up on the screens:

SLIDE DEUTERONOMY 10:12–13

[12] "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, [13] and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?"

BLANK SLIDE

That's all God wants!

That's all God demands!

- Fear him.
- Walk in his ways.
- Love him.
- Serve him.
- Keep his commandments!

THAT'S GOD'S WILL FOR YOU!

- It might be incredibly difficult...
- but let's not pretend that it's cryptic or mysterious.

God's call on your life is to obey him!

EXPLAIN: KNOWLEDGE

So often, people treat God's call for them as some sort of secret knowledge they need to mysteriously ascertain!

NO!

- Your call is to be obedient to him.
- You don't NEED any more knowledge.
- Obey his word.

You see, here's the thing about obedience:

- obedience is not rooted in knowledge...
- obedience is rooted in trust.

Let me say that again.

- Obedience isn't rooted in knowledge...
- obedience is rooted in trust.

You don't need more knowledge...you need to trust God more!

ILLUSTRATION: PUT YOUR SHOES ON

Parents know all about this one.

Obedience is not rooted in knowledge, but trust.

Imagine you wanted to surprise your kid with something fun:

- Like, going to the park,
- or the Zoo,
- or, Lord-forbid, Chuck-E-Cheese?

And so, you're like,

- *"Hey buddy, can you put the Legos away,*
- *and put on your shoes, we need to go."*

And then you go off to get your stuff ready to go,

- and come back a couple of minutes later...
- to little buddy just playing with his Legos,
- and you're like, *"Hey, buddy, what did I ask you to do?"*

"To put my Legos away."

- *"And..."*

"Um, I don't remember."

- *"I asked you to put on your shoes,*
- *we've gotta go.*
- *It's a surprise!*
- *But you've gotta do what I said."*

So, then your back out to your bedroom, to check on your wife,

- who's having just as much trouble putting on her shoes,
- but it's because she can't decide which ones to wear,
- and you're like, "Babe, come on, just pick a pair."

And she finally does,

- and you're coming around the corner,
- just about to head downstairs
 - to get going on this fun adventure,
- when you see little buddy...
 - with one shoe on,
 - and the other shoe he's filling with Legos.

And that's it! You snap!

- *"GET YOUR SHOES ON,*
- *WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A FUN,*
- *AND YOU'RE GONNA LIKE IT!"*

And then you have to repent for losing your temper.

But you see:

- if buddy knew that Chuck-E-Cheese was coming,
- he'd be in the car, strapped in,
- with both shoes on the correct feet,
- ready to go.

But what he needed was to trust you, as his parent.

TRANSITION

- In order for Saul to be equipped...
- For the call that God has confirmed...
- He must obey...
- and that means he's gotta take God at his word!

CONCLUSION **BLANK SLIDE W/PADS**

- So, how you doing on that whole trust thing?
- Are you waiting on more information before you obey God?
- What are you waiting for?

WHAT GOD CALLS YOU TO,

- HE'LL CONFIRM IN YOU,
- HE'LL EQUIP YOU FOR,
- BUT HE'LL REQUIRE YOU TO OBEY.

And I'll say this to close...what that means for me is that now I can stand on this stage, and if someone from my past walks in and says,

- *"Hey, I knew Chris back in high school.*
- *He was a real piece of work!*
- *Is Chris also among the pastors?"*

Well, I can put my arm around them and say,

- *"You should tell them some stories...*
- *just remember there are some kids in here."*

You see, in the end, none of us are qualified,

- or worthy,
- or ready for God's call.

None of us.

Every one of those stories about my past is true.

But the power of my God has freed me from them.

- He's calling you.
- Have you obeyed?

Let's pray.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES USED:

- Davis, Dale Ralph. Focus on the Bible: 1 Samuel.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *The Great Donkey Cover-Up*.
- Estes, Steve. *The Sovereignty of God in the Anointing of Saul*.
- Tsumura, David Toshio. NICOT: The First Book of Samuel.