Last time, we were introduced to Saul, a man who was trying to find His Father’s lost donkeys. Saul took a servant with him to find his dad’s donkeys and went through many towns to find the lost beasts.

1Sa 9:4 (CEV) Saul and the servant went through the hill country of Ephraim and the territory of Shalishah, but they could not find the donkeys. Then they went through the territories of Shaalim and Benjamin, but still there was no sign of the donkeys.

1Sa 9:5 Finally they came to the territory where the clan of Zuph lived. "Let's go back home," Saul told his servant. "If we don't go back soon, my father will stop worrying about the donkeys and start worrying about us!"

They did not give up easily and this is a good example of the diligence and perseverance that we need to have when we are assigned any tasks by our Father in heaven.

Jos 1:9 (ESV) Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Gal 6:9 (ESV) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

The Bible is full of encouragement for the children of God. Why? Because we do have a tendency to be discouraged and to easily give up.

We also learned from last time that Saul was picked by the Lord Himself. So it was not a coincidence that Saul’s servant suggested to consult Samuel regarding the lost donkeys. When they met, Samuel took Saul and his servant to a dining room in the place of worship and gave them the places of honor. Then Samuel gave Saul a choice piece of meat that he had reserved for Him. Eating is a symbol of whatever teaching we believe in. When we humble ourselves and believe in the Lord’s teaching, then He will give us a place of honor and we will be blessed with knowing Him more and more.

The next morning, Samuel revealed to Saul that God had indeed chosen him to lead Israel as their king.

1Sa 10:1 (BBE) Then Samuel took the bottle of oil, and put the oil on his head and gave him a kiss and said, Is not the Lord with the holy oil making you ruler over Israel, his people? and you will have authority over the people of the Lord, and you will make them safe from the hands of their attackers round about them, and this will be the sign for you:
Samuel then described a series of events that will happen in detail. These events included two men who will bring good news to Saul that his father’s donkeys had been found.

Why are all these details written for us? It is to teach us that every detail in our life is in God’s hand. We are clay in the potter’s hand.

1Sa 10:3 (CEV) Go on from there until you reach the big oak tree at Tabor, where you'll meet three men on their way to worship God at Bethel. One of them will be leading three young goats, another will be carrying three round loaves of bread, and the last one will be carrying a clay jar of wine.

1Sa 10:4 After they greet you, they'll give you two loaves of bread.

1Sa 10:5 Next, go to Gibeah, where the Philistines have an army camp. As you're going into the town, you'll meet a group of prophets coming down from the place of worship. They'll be going along prophesying while others are walking in front of them, playing small harps, small drums, and flutes.

1Sa 10:6 The Spirit of the LORD will suddenly take control of you. You'll become a different person and start prophesying right along with them.

1Sa 10:7 After these things happen, do whatever you think is right! God will help you.

1Sa 10:8 Then you should go to Gilgal. I'll come a little later, so wait for me. It may even take a week for me to get there, but when I come, I'll offer sacrifices and offerings to the LORD. I'll also tell you what to do next.

1Sa 10:9 As Saul turned around to leave Samuel, God made Saul feel like a different person. That same day, everything happened just as Samuel had said.

Later on that day, Saul was given a measure of the holy spirit and he was able to prophesy to the surprise of every one who knew him.

Let’s continue Samuel and Saul’s story:

1Sa 10:13 (CEV) After Saul stopped prophesying, he went to the place of worship.

1Sa 10:14 Later, Saul's uncle asked him, "Where have you been?" Saul answered, "Looking for the donkeys. We couldn't find them, so we went to talk with Samuel."

1Sa 10:15 "And what did he tell you?" Saul's uncle asked.
1Sa 10:16 Saul answered, "He told us the donkeys had been found." But Saul didn't mention that Samuel had chosen him to be king.

This tells us that Saul is not fully believe Samuel. This is after he witnessed all the signs that Samuel told him would happen, even to the last detail! Faith is a gift. There are those who takes awhile to convince and there are those blessed with a strong faith.

1Sa 10:17 (CEV) Samuel sent messengers to tell the Israelites to come to Mizpah and meet with the LORD.

1Sa 10:18 When everyone had arrived, Samuel said: The LORD God of Israel told me to remind you that he had rescued you from the Egyptians and from the other nations that abused you.

1Sa 10:19 God has rescued you from your troubles and hard times. But you have rejected your God and have asked for a king. Now each tribe and clan must come near the place of worship so the LORD can choose a king.

1Sa 10:20 Samuel brought each tribe, one after the other, to the altar, and the LORD chose the Benjamin tribe.

1Sa 10:21 Next, Samuel brought each clan of Benjamin there, and the LORD chose the Matri clan. Finally, Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was nowhere to be found.

1Sa 10:22 The people prayed, "Our LORD, is Saul here?" "Yes," the LORD answered, "he is hiding behind the baggage."

1Sa 10:23 The people ran and got Saul and brought him into the middle of the crowd. He was more than a head taller than anyone else.

1Sa 10:24 "Look closely at the man the LORD has chosen!" Samuel told the crowd. "There is no one like him!" The crowd shouted, "Long live the king!"

1Sa 10:25 Samuel explained the rights and duties of a king and wrote them all in a book. He put the book in a temple building at one of the places where the LORD was worshiped. Then Samuel sent everyone home.

This is the Lord speaking directly to all the Israelites. This is the Lord Himself picking Saul to be king and yet, where do we find Saul? He was hiding behind the baggage. This is the same doubt we saw from Moses when God tapped him to lead His people. But as we learned from the story of Moses, we cannot resist God. He does what He wants.

1Sa 10:26 (KJV) And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

1Sa 10:27 But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And
they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

The same thing happens today when God separates us from the many believers who call Him Lord. Some will go with us as God touches their heart. But many will hate us and doubt that the path we follow is the way to salvation. But as Saul did, we must hold our peace and let the Lord deal with those who persecute us.

Just as the leadership is turned over to Saul, king Nahash of the Ammonites surrounded the town of Jabesh, part of Israel's territory. The people there offered a peace treaty as long as the foreign king would not kill them. They even offered to pay taxes to king Nahash. King Nahash was such a cruel king, he said he would sign the peace agreement only after he pokes out the right eye of the Israelites living in that town! The leaders of Jabesh, desperate not to die but at the same town don't suffer such a terrible loss, asked king Nahash to give them seven days to ask for help from the other parts of Israel.

1Sa 11:3 (CEV) The town leaders said, "Give us seven days so we can send messengers everywhere in Israel to ask for help. If no one comes here to save us, we will surrender to you."

1Sa 11:4 Some of the messengers went to Gibeah, Saul's hometown. They told what was happening at Jabesh, and everyone in Gibeah started crying.

1Sa 11:5 Just then, Saul came in from the fields, walking behind his oxen. "Why is everyone crying?" Saul asked. They told him what the men from Jabesh had said.

1Sa 11:6 Then the Spirit of God suddenly took control of Saul and made him furious.

Saul was so angry that he took two oxen and cut them in pieces and had the pieces delivered to everyone in Israel as a message. He said, “We are building an army together and if you don’t join, I will also cut your oxen into pieces". The Lord made every fighting men afraid and so they joined Saul, more than three hundred thousand of them.

1Sa 11:9 (CEV) Saul and his officers sent the messengers back to Jabesh with this promise: "We will rescue you tomorrow afternoon." The messengers went back to the people at Jabesh and told them that they were going to be rescued. Everyone was encouraged!

1Sa 11:10 So they told the Ammonites, "We will surrender to you tomorrow, and then you can do whatever you want to."

1Sa 11:11 The next day, Saul divided his army into three groups and attacked before daylight. They started killing Ammonites and kept it up until afternoon. A few Ammonites managed to escape, but they were scattered far from each other.
The Israelite soldiers went to Samuel and demanded, "Where are the men who said they didn't want Saul to be king? Bring them to us, and we will put them to death!"

"No you won't!" Saul told them. "The LORD rescued Israel today, and no one will be put to death."

Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let's go to Gilgal. At Gilgal we will again make Saul the king."

All the people went to Gilgal. There, in front of the LORD, the people made Saul king. They offered fellowship offerings to the LORD. Saul and all the Israelites had a great celebration.

Through this first victory over their enemies, Israel was united under king Saul. There at Gilgal, Samuel gave his farewell address.

Samuel told the Israelites: I have given you a king, just as you asked.

You have seen how I have led you ever since I was a young man. I'm already old. My hair is gray, and my own sons are grown. Now you must see how well your king will lead you.

Let me ask this. Have I ever taken anyone's ox or donkey or forced you to give me anything? Have I ever hurt anyone or taken a bribe to give an unfair decision? Answer me so the LORD and his chosen king can hear you. And if I have done any of these things, I will give it all back.

The religious leaders of today cannot claim the same thing. Many of them live in luxury using the contributions from members of their church.

"No," the Israelites answered. "You've never cheated us in any way!"

Samuel said, "The LORD and his chosen king are witnesses to what you have said." "That's true," they replied.

Then Samuel told them: The LORD brought your ancestors out of Egypt and chose Moses and Aaron to be your leaders.

Now the LORD will be your judge. So stand here and listen, while I remind you how often the LORD has saved you and your ancestors from your enemies.

After Jacob went to Egypt, your ancestors cried out to the LORD for
help, and he sent Moses and Aaron. They led your ancestors out of Egypt and had them settle in this land.

1Sa 12:9 But your ancestors forgot the LORD, so he let them be defeated by the Philistines, the king of Moab, and Sisera, the commander of Hazor's army.

1Sa 12:10 Again your ancestors cried out to the LORD for help. They said, "We have sinned! We stopped worshiping you, our LORD, and started worshiping Baal and Astarte. But now, if you rescue us from our enemies, we will worship you."

1Sa 12:11 The LORD sent Gideon, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel to rescue you from your enemies, and you didn't have to worry about being attacked.

1Sa 12:12 Then you saw that King Nahash of Ammon was going to attack you. And even though the LORD your God is your king, you told me, "This time it's different. We want a king to rule us!"

1Sa 12:13 You asked for a king, and you chose one. Now he stands here where all of you can see him. But it was really the LORD who made him your king.

1Sa 12:14 If you and your king want to be followers of the LORD, you must worship him and do what he says. Don't be stubborn!

1Sa 12:15 If you're stubborn and refuse to obey the LORD, he will turn against you and your king.

1Sa 12:16 Just stand here and watch the LORD show his mighty power.

1Sa 12:17 Isn't this the dry season? I'm going to ask the LORD to send a thunderstorm. When you see it, you will realize how wrong you were to ask for a king.

1Sa 12:18 Samuel prayed, and that same day the LORD sent a thunderstorm. Everyone was afraid of the LORD and of Samuel.

The people got frightened by this terrible sign so they confessed their sins and admitted that they were wrong for asking a king. They also asked Samuel to pray for them.

1Sa 12:20 (ERV) Samuel answered, "Don't be afraid. It is true that you did all these bad things, but don't stop following the LORD. Serve the LORD with all your heart.

1Sa 12:21 Idols are only statues—they can't help you. So don't worship them. Idols can't help you or save you. They are nothing!
1Sa 12:22 "But the LORD won't leave his people. No, the LORD was pleased to make you his own people. So for his own good name, he won't leave you.

The Lord does not change His mind. He has planned to save all of His creation despite our sinfulness. He will carry out His plan beginning with His chosen people from every generation.