**June 13, 2021 1 Samuel 9:1-10:27**

***GPS***

**Scripture:** *1 Samuel 9:1-10:27 NRSV*

*(1)There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish … (2)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; he stood head and shoulders above everyone else. (3)Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, had strayed. So Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the boys with you; go and look for the donkeys." … (5)When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to the boy who was with him, "Let us turn back, or my father will stop worrying about the donkeys and worry about us." (6)But he said to him, "There is a man of God in this town; he is a man held in honor. Whatever he says always comes true. Let us go there now; perhaps he will tell us about the journey on which we have set out…*

*(11)As they went up the hill to the town, they met some girls coming out to draw water, and said to them, "Is the seer here?" (12)They answered, "Yes, there he is just ahead of you. Hurry; he has come just now to the town, because the people have a sacrifice today at the shrine. (13)As soon as you enter the town, you will find him, before he goes up to the shrine to eat. For the people will not eat until he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those eat who are invited. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately." (14)So they went up to the town. As they were entering the town, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the shrine…*

*(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 ruler over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have seen the suffering of my people, because their outcry 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 rule over my people." (18)Then Saul approached Samuel inside the gate, and said, "Tell me, please, where is the house of the seer?" (19)Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer; go up before me to the shrine, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind. (20)As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, give no further thought to them, for they have been found. And on whom is all Israel's desire fixed, if not on you and on all your ancestral house?" …*

*(27)As they were going down to the outskirts of the town, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the boy to go 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." (10:1)Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him; he said, "The LORD has anointed you ruler over his people Israel. You shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their enemies all around. Now this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you ruler over his heritage…*

*(9)As he turned away to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart; and all these signs were fulfilled that day. (10)When they were going from there to Gibeah, a band of prophets met him; and the spirit of God possessed him, and he fell into a prophetic frenzy along with them …*

*(17)Samuel summoned the people to the LORD at Mizpah (18)and said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' (19)But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses; and you have said, 'No! but set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans." …*

*(23)Then they ran and brought him from there. When he took his stand among the people, he was head and shoulders taller than any of them. (24)Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the one whom the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!" (25)Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship; and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD. Then Samuel sent all the people back to their homes. (26)Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went warriors whose hearts God had touched. (27)But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" They despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace*…

**Notes:**

1. God has a ***plan*** for you and will do all that is necessary for you to ***fulfill*** that purpose.
   1. God’s Positioning System uses your ***location***.
   2. God’s Positioning System uses your ***physical*** ***attributes***.
      1. David writes in Psalms 139:13-16 “*(13)For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. (14)I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. (15)My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. (16)Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. (NRSV)”*
   3. God’s Positioning System will use your ***upbringing***.
2. To be a part of achieving His goal we must **follow** the Lord.
   1. God’s Positioning System leads you to the ***solution***.
   2. God’s Positioning System leads you to needed ***provision***.
   3. God’s Positioning System leads you to the ***power*** needed.
3. In the ***power*** of the Spirit, you will find the power, the insight, and the wisdom to do the job that God is asking you to do.
   1. To avoid hitting the potholes, you need to ***trust*** your GPS.
   2. ***Trust*** in what God is doing.
   3. The enemy will use others to question your ***qualifications***;
   4. Will you ***follow*** your GPS today?

**Script:**

I remember many years ago there was a commercial where a guy was driving down the road and a voice inside of his car said, “Turn right now.” Immediately the driver turned his vehicle left and into the window of a building. That was my introduction to modern GPS Systems. Soon thereafter people I knew were purchasing GPS Systems; there were the Garmin’s and the TomTom’s and others that I cannot remember the name of.

I remember Dale bought the first one I remember of. I borrowed it a couple of times and it worked very well. I remember Pastor Art Roxby bought one while he was here and we used it to go to district events. Soon Kelly bought one and finally I broke down and bought one. They came in very handy when traveling into unknown areas. In the last 10 years mine has taken me from Niagara Falls to North Carolina; from Dover Delaware to Dallas Texas, and for me it was somewhat of a relief that there was something to help lead me back to civilization if I were to get lost.

Almost everyone of us here this morning has a GPS. Oh it may not be one of the devoted devices made by Garmin or TomTom, but if you have a smartphone, you have a GPS. It has been incorporated into the device that you use to make phone calls, send text messages, and check your emails. And if you know how to use it properly, there is very few places that you can go where you cannot find your way back. And, if you are traveling to an unfamiliar location it will get you there in the most efficient manner. One of the interesting things I have learned about using a GPS system is that we become so dependent upon the GPS that without it, many times we are lost.

This morning I want to look at a different GPS; God’s Positioning System. I am here to tell you that without God’s Positioning System you will surely fail. We live in a nation that often encourages independence and going in our own direction. Our homes and our churches are filled with people that all go their own directions; and often the result is not good. In stubborn rebellion against God, the Israelites asked for a king, and God is going to grant them their request. But in meeting their request, God will not only to meet their needs but to also discipline them. He wants to teach them some lessons about who is in charge and what their responsibility to Him is. Turn with me in your Bibles to 1 Samuel 9:1 and follow with me as I read our text this morning through to 1 Samuel 10:27.

*1 Samuel 9:1-10:27 NRSV (1)There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish son of Abiel son of Zeror son of Becorath son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. (2)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; he stood head and shoulders above everyone else. (3)Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, had strayed. So Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the boys with you; go and look for the donkeys." (4)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 he passed through the land of Benjamin, but they did not find them. (5)When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to the boy who was with him, "Let us turn back, or my father will stop worrying about the donkeys and worry about us." (6)But he said to him, "There is a man of God in this town; he is a man held in honor. Whatever he says always comes true. Let us go there now; perhaps he will tell us about the journey on which we have set out…*

*(11)As they went up the hill to the town, they met some girls coming out to draw water, and said to them, "Is the seer here?" (12)They answered, "Yes, there he is just ahead of you. Hurry; he has come just now to the town, because the people have a sacrifice today at the shrine. (13)As soon as you enter the town, you will find him, before he goes up to the shrine to eat. For the people will not eat until he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those eat who are invited. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately." (14)So they went up to the town. As they were entering the town, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the shrine…*

*(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 ruler over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have seen the suffering of my people, because their outcry 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 rule over my people." (18)Then Saul approached Samuel inside the gate, and said, "Tell me, please, where is the house of the seer?" (19)Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer; go up before me to the shrine, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind. (20)As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, give no further thought to them, for they have been found. And on whom is all Israel's desire fixed, if not on you and on all your ancestral house?" …*

*(27)As they were going down to the outskirts of the town, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the boy to go 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." (10:1)Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him; he said, "The LORD has anointed you ruler over his people Israel. You shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their enemies all around. Now this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you ruler over his heritage…*

*(9)As he turned away to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart; and all these signs were fulfilled that day. (10)When they were going from there to Gibeah, a band of prophets met him; and the spirit of God possessed him, and he fell into a prophetic frenzy along with them. (11)When all who knew him before 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?" …*

*(17)Samuel summoned the people to the LORD at Mizpah (18)and said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' (19)But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses; and you have said, 'No! but set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans." …*

*(23)Then they ran and brought him from there. When he took his stand among the people, he was head and shoulders taller than any of them. (24)Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the one whom the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!" (25)Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship; and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD. Then Samuel sent all the people back to their homes. (26)Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went warriors whose hearts God had touched. (27)But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" They despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace*…

I know that our passage today has been a bit long and maybe a little difficult to follow; but it tells a story of how Saul came to be chosen to be King and how Samuel came to identify him. You see God has a purpose for each of us. As long as God is directing us and leading us, and we are following Him, we may hit a few bumps in the road, but we will not hit the potholes like I spoke of last week. In 1 Samuel 9, we learn of a young man by name of Saul who was sent by his father with one of his father’s servants to find some missing donkeys. Saul and the servant had traveled for a way and had not found the donkeys so Saul told the servant that they should turn around so his father wouldn’t get worried about them; but the servant had an idea. The servant new of a prophet who lived close by and suggested that they go ask the man of God if he could tell them where their donkeys were. So, they went to find Samuel and, on the way, they met some girls and they asked them. The girls told them to hurry up to the high place and catch Samuel before he blessed the sacrifices. Once he did that, he would then eat with those that were invited.

Doesn’t this all seem a little too convenient, so many times we think we are lucky to have a situation occur; I even use the phrase good luck when hoping the best for others. But when it really comes down to the events of our lives, do we really believe in luck, do we really think that all the events of our lives that put us in favored situations are just coincidence? I do not think so, there is a stronger power at work in this world and that power has a plan and purpose for you as well as me.

That power is God. And today I want you to see that the God of this universe has a plan for you and he will do all that is necessary for you to fulfill that purpose. This is where you will see God’s Positioning System; and the effect that it has on you and me and all of the events of our lives. God’s Positioning System uses three things your location, your physical attributes, and your upbringing.

Let’s look at how God Positioning System uses your location. We were fortunate to be born in a specific location; how is that decided, was it by luck, was it by coincidence or was it on purpose. Well, it is my belief that God chose your parents, God chose where you were born. The decisions you and your parents have made throughout your life has led to where you are, it has led to your economic status, it has led to your circumstances, but God can use that. God did not cause you to commit sins that may have led to difficult circumstances in your life, but your trust in the Lord can lead to an improvement in your life, and God can use your experiences to help other people out of the difficult circumstance of their lives. Saul came from a leading family within the small Tribe of Benjamin. God has set aside a task that uses your unique skill set and qualifications; it is for you and only you. You live here and God has a purpose for you.

God’s Positioning System also uses your physical attributes. In a world that is extremely concerned about looks, we sometimes forget that God made us like He wants us to look. Now that doesn’t mean we can live carefree and do what we want and not worry about our health or physical wellbeing. Our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit and we are supposed to take care of it, but if your ears are too big, or your nose too long; you’re too tall or too short, these are things outside of our control, so that must be how God wanted you to look. While siblings or relatives may look very close in appearance, they are still very unique individuals. Saul was tall, the most handsome of all the Israelites, physically strong and attractive. God can use our appearance as part of the plan. The people needed someone that looked the part so they would follow and God knew that.

David writes in Psalms 139:13-16 “*(13)For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. (14)I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. (15)My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. (16)Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. (NRSV)”*

God’s Positioning System will even use your upbringing. That is right, God will use the way that you were raised in order to create in you the ability to do certain things. Think about the things you find important and look at the things that are important to your parents’; how close are they to being the same, especially if you have a close relationship with you parents. How we raise our children is important. I have found that the things that I or Jan find important will generally become important to our children. Maybe, just maybe, the things we find important and do will some day be things that our children think is important to do as well.

Saul was obedient to his father. Saul went out looking for some lost donkeys. I wonder if Saul would have become king if he would have not been obedient to his father. You never know what door God is opening. Saul was also concerned about his dad. Saul didn’t want his father worrying about him while he was out looking for the donkeys.

Now before you begin to blame your parents for your lack of spiritual growth or concern; let me inform you; that would just be an excuse. Also, as parents we should take seriously the examples we set for our children, but also realize that sometimes they will stray away from our teaching. In these situations, we must pray that they would soon listen to the Lord’s leading and return to a relationship with Him; they have free will just as we do, their obedience to the word and God is on them. Saul obviously was not raised in a “religious” environment. Samuel was a highly respected man of God and had been there a long time and Saul did not know about Samuel, his servant had to tell him.

So God can use everything about you, your looks, your location, and how you were raised, in order to achieve his goal. But for us to be a part of achieving His goal we must be following the Lord. So if we are to follow the Lord that means that He will be leading us. Where does he lead us to?

God’s Positioning System leads you to the solution. In 1 Samuel 10:1-2 Samuel anointed Saul, and then he assured him that the donkeys had been found and that he could stop worrying. When the servant of God is in the will of God, God solves their problems. God was saying to Saul, “No matter what the problems are, remember that I can solve them.” If you have been called to a place of leadership and you are worried or anxious about some situation, remember that God can solve your problems. Just do what he leads you to do. After Samuel anointed Saul, God gave Saul the assurance that He would help him. God has given us assurance of our salvation through the Holy Spirit within us. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you.

God’s Positioning System leads you to the provision you need. In 1 Samuel 10:3-4, God was providing for Saul everything he needed. God doesn’t place us in a situation that will not provide for our needs. In every situation, in every circumstance, everything that is needed for us to succeed is there, we only need to follow the leading of the Lord and be obedient to His will. We may need to be creative, but everything we need is there.

God’s Positioning System leads you to the power you need. In 1 Samuel 10:5-8, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul and changed him. When the Spirit of God comes upon us, we too are changed. God changed Saul from a farmer to a king. If you will allow the Spirit of God to work in you, you will have all the power you need to do what God has called you to do. When you are serving the Lord, the only way you can survive is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

IF you try to do the work of God on your own power, you will feel as if you are coming up short. But in the power of the Spirit, you will find the power, the insight, and the wisdom to do the job that God is asking you to do.

Even as you do the will of God, you will meet with many obstacles; some of which are manmade, while others may come from powers unseen. There will be many potholes that you will need to avoid, and many times they will appear blindly to you. If you are going to avoid hitting the potholes, you need to trust your GPS. You need to understand that God knows exactly what’s going to happen and you need to trust Him. There are going to be moments that it won’t seem like things are going correctly, but trust in what God is doing.

In today’s passage we read about Saul’s obedience to God’s plan. But pay special attention to verse 27 in chapter 10. The enemy will use people, maybe friends, maybe even family, to question your abilities, to question your motives, to question your qualifications; but if you follow the Lord, if we listen to His words, His instructions, and His call we are able to stay focused on the task and not popular opinion. We will be able to fulfill God’s plan for our lives, and the task he calls each of us to do. Will you follow your GPS today?