

A CHOSEN MAN

1 Samuel 9:1–6

Marcus Luttrell, the Navy SEAL from Lone Survivor, said that before he ever entered BUD/S training, he spent years preparing himself physically and mentally. As a teenager, while other kids were relaxing, he was running, swimming, training, and disciplining himself - **“You don’t prepare during the battle. You prepare before the battle.”**
This followed a simple but profound lesson for disciples / you have to prepare yourself to be a chosen man

Sauls life before God chose him to be Israels first king had some very specific qualities in his life that would be helpful for us to apply to our own lives.

I. THE PATH TO BEING CHOSEN

A. Ministry is supernatural

1 Samuel 9:15–16 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 over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me.”

1. God shows Samuel this is more than just being a manager or doing a job
 - a) Mistake men can make about ministry - it is simply a task or a job that needs to be done
 - b) If I can get through all these petty unimportant duties I can graduate to something better
2. Ministry impacts other people
 - a) God needed a man He could use to bring deliverance to Gods people - Saul was going to be Gods instrument
 - b) True of disciples here this morning - God has chosen you to be His instruments for the gospel
 - (1) We outreach - spread the news of Jesus Christ to a broken and lost world - the result is people are saved

Romans 10:14–14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

3. Gods will is accomplished through men willing to obey
 - a) Saul’s ministry did not begin by being crowned king it started as a search and rescue mission for some donkeys

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.”

- b) We can think ministry starts when I am announced at conference, given a title, slow walk down the isle
 - (1) There was a need, and I can do something about it

B. In our text: God looks for men that can be trusted with **more**

1. Ministry requires more out of men
 - a) This is the trap of delegation - when I am in charge of some people then I am going pass all my responsibilities of on them.
 - (1) I can remember when I was door director one of the duties we had was to make sure there were two clean glasses of water at the pulpit before the start of each service - one time I asked someone else to do that for me... cups were dirty, guy stuck his fingers in the water as he was carrying them up to the pulpit... but it wasn’t his responsibility it was mine - I dropped the ball
 - b) Saul was going from serving his earthly father to serving his heavenly father - more pressure more responsibility, more dedication
 - (1) Listen men, pioneering is the absolutely most rewarding but also the most difficult thing you will every do in your life / when you go out to pastor some day the weight gets heavier not lighter
2. God wants to trust you with more than you currently have
 - a) Comes down to being faithful with what God has placed in your hands

Luke 19:16–17 The first servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!’ **17** “ ‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’”

- b) Faithfulness in small areas prepares you for more

II. QUALITIES OF A CHOSEN MAN

A. **Stewardship** - A chosen man understands ownership / what does and does not belong to him

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.”

1. Sauls ministry began with caring for something that wasn’t even his

- a) We are all stewards/ we must understand that nothing belongs to us - not even our own life

Acts 17:28 for “*In him we live and move and have our being*”; as even some of your own poets have said, “*For we are indeed his offspring.*”

2. This is stewardship: He could be trusted with something that did not belong to him
 - a) Searching for his fathers donkeys - not his but he took responsibility
3. Ministry stewardship - you have to be personally invested in your ministry
 - a) Take care of the people around you - people are not your slaves to use and abuse - if there is something I don't want to do its fine I'll dump that off on them- stewardship is service
 - b) Take care of the equipment in your care - sound and video equipment, props, facilities, can I leave my area of ministry or influence better than I found it?
 - (1) Around this **church**, the **one80** and the **warehouse** there is 100's of thousands of dollars worth of equipment that are left in the hands of disciples to care for.. are you caring for it?
 - c) Future pastors - Take care of the money that is in your hands
 - (1) Stewards must be financially responsible - how you handle money will determine future usefulness
 - (2) Men that get launched into ministry just become a more expensive version of themselves

B. Convictions

1. Whats important to God should be important to me
 - a) What matters the most to God? Lost souls / people living in sin that need to be found
- Luke 15:3-4** So he told them this parable: **4** “*What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?*”
- b) Gods instructions matter - He is a holy God and we must separated from this world
2. Know what you believe and why you believe it
 - a) A conviction is a settled belief grounded in scripture / you better know what you believe - especially when it comes to biblical theology: Salvation, tithing, baptism, church structure, speaking in tongues etc.

C. Character - What you are when no one is looking

1. Secret decisions of character will determine your destiny and future
 - a) Wandering out in the wilderness - no one else around/ not being watched by his father
 - b) What kind of man are you when no one is watching
2. Ministry will reveal what kind of man you are - what you are on the inside
 - a) Consistent prayer life / Consistent in feeding yourself in the word of God - Daily / Personally fruitful
3. Humility to receive instructions

1 Samuel 9:5-6 When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant 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.*”

- a) Saul was a man that could humble himself / willing to accept the fact that someone may have had a better idea than him
- b) Humility is an honest recognition of self - *I don't know everything / that why I need a pastor and relationships where other men can speak into my life*
 - (1) *Do you have someone in your life that can correct you and it be received?*

III. GODS CHOICE

- A. Gods choice depends on our response
 1. Potential of what God can do means little if we don't cooperate
 - a) Decisions everyman can make to become a chosen man for God to use
 - (1) God use my life for your purposes - I will surrender to the process / to your will / what you want
- B. God makes is possible for us to do His will
 1. Changed Sauls Heart

1 Samuel 10:9 When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day.

- a) Men today that feel like they lack in so many different areas - doing something more for God seems impossible
 - b) In many ways for all of us - without a supernatural miracle / it absolutely is
 - (1) On our own strength - our own wits - or own ability we can accomplish nothing
2. God is able to do incredible things with lives that are willing to surrender
 - a) Saul was by no means perfect - neither are we but if you will apply these principles to your life God can use you!