

## **Prelude**

The passage from Matthew 11:30 states that Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden is light. This is made possible through His Holy Spirit, allowing us to live life as He did. The world is in a time of calamity, and many have rejected God's laws, even in His own church. However, there is a people called the Benjamin people who will bring restoration in the latter days.

The passage from 1 Peter 2:9 describes believers as a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a peculiar people. The combination of being a King priest (a combination of Judah's kingly mandate and Levi's priesthood) and being few characterizes the end time army, the Benjamin company. Being a Royal Priesthood means having dominion over sin, starting from within and spilling into our external environment. This dominion is not oppressive but brings salvation to others and it is subject to God's command. Holiness is for our benefit, and the power of a man of God is in His holiness.

## **Saul the Benjamite**

Last week, we considered Saul a Benjamite. Though he fell out of the way, his call was genuine and an example for these Benjamin people. God reveals deep things about Jesus Christ in the ordinary lives of people, and we trust God to find these mysteries in the life of Saul of Benjamin.

### **Saul's Call.**

*1 Samuel 9:1-2 KJVS*

*Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power. [2] And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.*

The Word "choice" in this scripture means that He was an elect young man. It also says that Saul was of an agreeable / goodly spirit. To be agreeable is to have that desire, from the Holy Spirit, to follow after God. He was head and shoulder above any one in Israel. He was a graced young man.

*1 Samuel 9:3 KJVS*

*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.*

The donkey here could represent an elect person, as seen in Isaiah 1:3 and Matthew 21:4-5, where Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. The Lord will enter the world today on the backs of His people.

*1 Samuel 9:4-5 KJVS*

*And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not. [5] And when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that was with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us.*

Many believers today have a burden for the elect who have been lost to the system and the world, and they feel called to bring them back to the Lord, but they must be careful not to become lost themselves. This is emphasised by Saul's concern. It is critical to be grounded in God's mind and to abide and keep the charge of God while reaching out to others.

*1 Samuel 9:6-11 KJVS*

*And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go. [7] Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we? And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way. [9] (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.) [10] Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was. [11] And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?*

The man of God was to show Saul the way to go, just as the Holy Spirit does for believers. As believers continue to see the Lord, He invests in them, transforming them into seers to show others the way as well.

*1 Samuel 9:12 KJVS*

*And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place:*

Despite the fact that it began as a charge to find donkeys, the Lord orchestrated Samuel's meeting with the judge of Israel, Samuel the seer, on a worship day. Those who seek answers in their hearts will always find a witness from the Lord. The Lord will not abandon the Benjaminites, but will bring them to a chosen (elect) crowd. This takes place in the land of "Zuph," which means "Honeycomb," symbolizing the Word of God as honey. 1 Samuel 14:27 and Ephesians 1:18 also speaks of enlightenment through the eating of the Word of God (Honey).

*1 Samuel 9:13-16 KJVS*

*As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him. And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place. [15] Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying, [16] Tomorrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and*

*thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.*

No one ate until God's man arrived. This is important to remember because it was one of Saul's pitfalls in the later scriptures. It is critical that we do not rush into any scriptural interpretation while studying the scriptures, but rather wait for the Lord to reveal His Word to us. Also, while Saul thought he was just looking for his donkeys, God had orchestrated his path to meet with Samuel. He was destined to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines. The philistines symbolize fleshliness and carnality. These Benjamites will be a means of deliverance to turn people away from ungodliness and towards God, but this deliverance will begin after they have been delivered.

*1 Samuel 9:17-20 KJVS*

*And when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people. [18] Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is. [19] And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart. [20] And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?*

This scripture demonstrates that God places matters concerning the Kingdom in our hearts, and we must spend time with Him to reveal them. Our priority is to learn from the Lord and manifest His truth to the World. While it is true that creation is groaning for the manifestation of the sons of God, God is more zealous about His house and elect than any man. We must dine with Him in the secret place in order to become the delivers creation seeks, for Saviours must come out of Mt Zion and the Kingdom shall be the Lords.

*1 Samuel 9:21 KJVS*

*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? [22] And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons. [23] And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee. [24] And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, Behold that which is left! set it before thee, and eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day. [25] And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house. [26] And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad. [27] And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.*

Those who will demonstrate the power creation seeks are those who learn to eat today. This scripture said that in the spring of the day, Samuel revealed the mandate to Saul.

## **What Mandate?**

The mandates can be summed up in the three signs Samuel mentioned to Saul, shown in 1 Samuel 10. For this meditation, we will focus on the first sign.

### **First Sign – The men at Rachael’s sepulchre**

*1 Samuel 10:1-2 KJVS*

*Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance? [2] When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?*

The first sign occurred at Rachael’s sepulcher. It is a call for an undivided attention to the Lord. Rachel sepulcher was where Jesus was born. Genesis 35:19 shows Rachel died in Ephrath which was where Jesus was born, Matthew 8:1. When the prophet spoke of Bethlemlen, he showed that Bethlehem Judah was little and insignificant, yet destined for great things, just like these Benjamin company. Micah 5:2.

However, note what was said by the men to Saul: *, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?*

This is a charge that necessitates complete devotion to the Father through the Word, worship, and meditation. It requires a close relationship with the Father. Saul's father forgot the donkey and longed for his son, just as the Father yearns for us. We cannot afford to neglect our vineyard in the same way that the bride did in Song of Solomon 1:6. We receive the engrafted Word of God here, which can save our souls (James 1:21, 1 Peter 5:6).

### **Mary and Martha**

*Luke 10:38-39 KJVS*

*Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. [39] And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.*

Although Martha appeared to be the main character, since the scripture noted that Jesus came into Martha’s house. Mary was simply noted as her sister, like supporting a supporting cast member. Martha, like a lot of us do, was preoccupied with serving (being a deacon). Yet Mary was endowed with the gift of hearing and simply sat and learned. According to Jesus, this was the better and more important path to take. Jesus said:

*Luke 10:41-42 KJVS*

*And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: [42] But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

## The Spikenard.

*John 12:1-8 KJVS*

*Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. [2] There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. [3] Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. [4] Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, [5] Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? [6] This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. [7] Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. [8] For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.*

The events detailed in the story took place six days before Jesus' burial. Mary gained divine inspiration and could relate to the Lord's passion after spending time in quiet contemplation and attentive listening to the Lord. As noted in Proverbs 27:9 and Songs of Solomon 1:12, spikenard, a scented ointment, is generated from a place of intimate communion.

*Song of Solomon 1:12-14 KJVS*

*While the king sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof. [13] A bundle of myrrh is my wellbeloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts. [14] My beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of Engedi.*

Spikenard is specifically offered in sincere fellowship with God. Is your spikenard filling up the room as you worship or are you busy. In the place of suffering, we are grounded in His truth and also partake of His Suffering. Myrrh is a bitter balm. It speaks of suffering and sacrifice, without which we cannot partake of his glory. It is the bitter way of the cross, dying to self, that leads to abundant life. In the place of fellowship, the Lord will show us many things we will suffer His name's sake.

Lastly, the camphire is from the Hena plant. It produces a red dye. It comes from the same Word "Kopher" which means a ransom, Numbers 35:31, Job 33:24. In this place of fellowship, we are grounded in redemptive truths. Engedi means the fountain of the Kid (the sacrifice), our springs and nourishing, Ezekiel 47:10. The spikenard, myrrh, camphire and all the chief spices as seen in Songs of Solomon 1:14-16, flow out of the garden of the Lord, when the fountain is Engedi, the sacrifice.

Your Heavenly Father desires a close and intimate connection with you, which can be achieved with the help of His Word and Spirit. It is recommended that you divide your personal time with the Lord in a 70/30 ratio, with 70% being direct, intimate time with the Lord through reading the Word, prayer, and worship. Within this 70%, a large portion, approximately 35%, should be given to studying the Word of God, with the remaining time devoted to prayer and worship, both of which are types of prayer. The remaining 30% of your time might be spent on indirect learning activities like listening to sermons or reading books. Spending 100% of your devotion time listening to someone else preach is likely to lead to confusion, but by faithfully dedicating 70% of your time to direct learning, you will be able to discern between truth and error.