

BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT: A1480 ~ Saul Anointed.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

In Bible times, Samuel was the last of Israel's judges yet also the first of its prophets. As a prophet, it was Samuel's job to tell the king and the people of God's commands to live by. The role of a prophet of God was often a difficult one as Bible history shows that the Israelites usually preferred not to hear what a prophet of God had to say.

When a prophet of God foretold any event that would happen in the future, he had to do so with complete accuracy. If a prophet had any predictions proved untrue, he was regarded as a false prophet and no longer a prophet of God.

Samuel lived faithfully before God but he had some disappointments in life. First, his sons had not followed his own godly example. Samuel had seen Eli's sons doing wrong and knew their premature deaths were the result of this. So he must have been very unhappy that his own sons started accepting bribes from the very people they were judging.

When sports people suffer from an injury, they go through the disappointment of not being able to compete, as well as the pain of recovery and the patience needed to get back into top form again. Those who love the Lord Jesus know there is much more to life and living than the immediate disappointment of being side-lined.

Samuel was also disappointed that Israel had rejected the God of its fathers and had asked for a king to rule over them. He warned the people how much it would cost them to have an earthly ruler instead of God, but they would not listen to him.

When God revealed to Samuel who was to be the first king of Israel, Samuel may also have been disappointed that up to that time, he had never met the young man.

Samuel's first encounter with Saul was a day before Samuel anointed him as king. Saul sought Samuel out to help him find his father's lost donkeys and ended up staying the night at Samuel's house. Despite this, Samuel acted kindly towards his visitor even though there were great changes ahead for both of them.

The next day, Samuel could also have been disappointed when anointing Saul as king that Saul did not believe he was the right person for such an important job. The Israelites were hoping for a fighting man but instead, God chose a person inexperienced in battle and not confident in his kingly appointment.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

When Saul found it very hard to believe that he was to be the first king over Israel, Samuel prophesied to him what would happen next during the day to help him believe that God had really chosen him. Saul certainly had not been looking for such a promotion! If the Lord calls a Christian to some demanding task, this person has many promises in the Bible to cling to during the times of uncertainty. In the Bible book Psalms, Chapter 55, it says: 'Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you.' And in Psalm 32, the Lord says, 'I will teach you the way you should go; I will instruct you and advise you.'

Many Christians have relied on God to guide them when they have not had the formal qualifications to do a particular job. A missionary travelling in a remote mountainous region of Vanuatu Island in the Pacific Ocean faced a medical emergency. A wild pig's tusk had ripped open a deep wound in the flesh of a man's leg. So long was the cut and so small the amount of thread available to stitch it, that the missionary spaced the stitches far apart. When the man was finally carried to a hospital, the missionary inquired from a nurse what he should have done. The nurse assured him that he had done the right thing by allowing the wound to drain between the stitches. What a blessing God's answers are to prayer in times of trouble!

As recounted in the Bible book 1 Samuel, Chapter 10, when Saul left Samuel to return home, God gave Saul a new heart and equipped him for the job. Everything that Samuel had told Saul would happen, did happen that day. Along the way home, Saul joined in with a company of prophets. The Spirit of the Lord came mightily on Saul and he spoke under divine inspiration. Yet when Saul arrived home, he did not tell his family about being anointed king over Israel.

Samuel called all the Israelites together to decide on a king. What are the tests of leadership? These can be burning questions in some churches. Sometimes a person is given a position within a church because they are a relative of some important person in that church. Or because they may have a very good education or can speak well.

So what character traits does a good leader need to have? A leader must trust God to solve his or her problems as the provider for all their needs. He or she must know how to hear God's Word and wait obediently on the Lord. And he or she must lead others by living a good example.

In Bible history, the Israelites had challenged their leader, particularly Moses, and had wanted to replace him. Samuel did the choosing of king by the impartial taking of lots so that the people would accept whoever was chosen by God. When Saul confessed he was not trained to lead the people, Samuel assured him that he just needed to fully trust in God only.

God is developing people whom he can give greater authority and responsibility to. He gives people various jobs and helps them to mature and respond. In this process, God is looking for obedience and faithfulness.

It is estimated that 95% of all people want to be followers and only a few want to be leaders. Of those few people wanting to be leaders, some want leadership roles for the wrong reasons. They seek power and control over others. They want to be the one to make all the decisions and to manipulate people to do their wishes. This type of leadership is a big burden in the church. A leader who starts using such behaviour is not trusting God to work things out for him or herself. In the 2nd book of Peter, in the New Testament, it says: "Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Are you unsure of your relationship with the Lord Jesus? Ask yourself this question: Do I do everything so that God's Name will be praised? God will give you the mind of Christ to love and care for the souls of others if you come to Him first, admitting that all your ways fall short of God's true love and position. Whether you are a leader or not, ask for forgiveness and a full measure of God's love for other people around you.

MUSIC - Integrity Music.

That was Paul Baloche & Ed Kerr singing "From all my fears."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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