

Sermon Worksheet: "A Prince for the Lord's People" (1 Sam. 9:1–10:16)

September 24, 2023 (Evening)

**Big Idea:** The Lord's gifts are not a substitute for the Lord's graces.

1. Appointing a Prince (1 Sam. 9:1–27)

## 2. Anointing a Prince (1 Sam. 10:1–16)

### Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Kish (Saul's father) is a "man of valor" (1 Sam. 9:1; see Ruth 2:1; 1 Sam. 16:18; 1 Kgs. 11:28)? What does it mean that Saul is never called a man of valor? In what sense is Saul "good" (1 Sam. 9:2)? What does it mean that the "way" of Saul's young man is "good" (1 Sam. 9:10)? What does it mean that Saul's way is never called "good"?
2. Saul's name means "asked of" the Lord, which reminds us that the people asked the Lord for a king. Furthermore, Samuel declares that Saul is the one who is "desirable in Israel" (1 Sam. 9:20). The Lord, however, describes Saul not as a king, but as a "prince," which probably is related to the word "to declare." How does this help us to understand Saul's place in relation to the people and in relation to the Lord?
3. Why does Samuel anoint Saul with oil (1 Sam. 10:1)? What kinds of people were anointed with oil? What did the physical symbolism of oil point to spiritually? In the Old Testament, could people lose the Holy Spirit when he was given in this way (see 1 Sam. 16:14)? Why or why not? In the New Testament, can believers lose the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think that Samuel prophesies that Saul will encounter more signs when he goes on his way (1 Sam. 10:1–7)? What kind of test does Samuel give to Saul (1 Sam. 10:8)? What specifically will this test evaluate concerning Saul? What does it mean that God "gave [Saul] a new heart" (1 Sam. 10:9)? What do you make of the fact that Saul does not tell his family the most significant things that Samuel had spoken to him?