**1 Samuel 9-10: Insecurity, Inferiority, and Inadequacy**

**Main: Focusing on ourselves leads to insecurity**

**Now, we begin a study of a man who, just like the nation, won’t deal with his issues. Will we?**

**1. It is hard for any of us to not think our ability to succeed is tied directly to outward qualities, like being physically attractive or to our stature – 1 Sam. 16:24; Jn. 7:24**

**While these may or may not be desirable qualities, it is a mistake to place our faith in them 9:1**

**2. It’s a little concerning that Saul’s servant seemed more spiritually perceptive and resourceful than Saul, the future king 9:2-10**

* **It is not uncommon that individuals who outwardly seem suited for tasks are simply not.**
* **In addition, it’s a similar mistake to judge ourselves worthy or unworthy due to physical considerations alone or, in some cases, even to consider them at all.**

**3. We continue to see warning signs with Saul that betray feelings of insecurity, inferiority, and inadequacy – 9:15-21**

* **What necessary connection is there between our family background and our ability to serve the Lord?**
* **Our hesitancy may have more to do with our reaction than any reality.**

**4. The supernatural confirmation for Saul in this unexpected appointment should have been very encouraging to him - 9:17-10:13**

**Often, our reluctance to serve the Lord has more to do with our unwillingness and/or lack of faith than God’s support.**

**5. It’s difficult to imagine that Saul was not a believer – 9:22-10:10**

* **God gave him a new heart (10:9) and he became a new man (10:6) - Ez. 36:25-27 (Also, 11:19-20)**
* **We can’t properly obey the Lord without new birth and without the Spirit’s power - Romans 8:6-11; Gal. 5:16-18**

**6. Once again, we see red flags – 10:14-16**

* **Why did he not tell his uncle?**
* **There is a significant difference between humility and disregarding responsibility.**

**7. The people knew full well the dangers they were walking into in desiring a king like the nations around them and rejecting Yahweh as their king – 10:17-19**

* **They were warned, but wanted their way and the world’s approval.**
* **Apart from God’s mercy, wanting to be like the world instead of doing things God’s way never ends well.**

**8. Saul’s unwillingness involved a lack of faith – 10:20-22**

* **The Lord’s desire was crystal clear here. This was not humility.**
* **What are we unwilling to do because we don’t believe God?**
* **Saul’s failure to report to his uncle what had happened, along with his earlier response to Samuel (9:21) and his later response to his announcement as king (10:22) betray his sense of inadequacy, insecurity, and inferiority.**
* **Feelings of inadequacy, insecurity, and inferiority are common for all of us.**
* **The key is how we respond.**
* **When I feel inadequate or insecure, God is still adequate (2 Cor. 3:5-6) and is a Rock for us.**
* **Humility causes us to rely on the Lord.**
* **Insecurity causes us to run from service.**
* **Our shortcomings need to be dealt with honestly.**

**9. Everyone is flawed and no one knows it better than we ourselves do.**

* **So, if all we think of is ourselves, we can’t help but be insecure and feel inadequate.**
* **An excessive focus on ourselves is wrong and spiritually unhealthy.**

**9. Even when we seek to serve the Lord, we can expect people to be present that**

 **cause trouble - 10:27**