

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

DIVINE COINCIDENCES

I SAMUEL 9:1-27

APRIL 30TH, 2023

- I. Saul's Background: vs. 1-2
- II. Saul's Search for Lost Donkeys: vs. 3-14
- III. God's Activity Behind the Scenes: vs. 15-17
- IV. Saul's Meeting with Samuel: vs. 18-27
- V. Application: Three Reflections on God's Providence
 - 1) Meditate and explore God's providence toward you
 - 2) Connect God's providence with His character
 - 3) Respond to God's providence in an appropriate way

Questions:

1. How do you normally understand and talk about "coincidences, luck, chance" and how does that reveal your understanding of God's sovereignty and providence?
2. What stood out to you the most about 1 Samuel 9 as it relates to God working behind the scenes?
3. Saul was simply looking for lost donkeys and did not realize God was up to something else. Can you share a similar experience from your own life in which God was working behind the scenes and you did not realize until you looked back?
4. What was significant about the meal Samuel had with Saul in vs. 22-24?
5. Throughout the OT, the king of Israel is often depicted as the husband to God's people. In the NT, Jesus is the true and better husband to His people, the church (Ephesians 5:25-27). In what ways is Jesus the true and better husband to His church and how has He demonstrated that in the past and now in the present?
6. For the application part in the sermon, three reflections on God's providence were shared. Take a moment and reflect on each one opening it up for all to share:
 - Meditate and explore God's providence toward you
 1. What is one specific act of God's providence you see right now in your life?
 - Connect God's providence with His character
 1. What is one aspect of God you see with a specific act of His providence from your life?
 - Respond to God's providence in an appropriate way
 1. How does God's providence help you avoid discouragement?
 2. How does God's providence help you embrace your limited viewpoint and create humility?