

Welcome to 2021

- **SUNDAY SERVICE**

English service except for last Sunday of the month (Indonesian service)

- **HOLY COMMUNION**

Every 1st & 3rd Sunday (extra at 5th Sunday)

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

- **Kids class:** every Sunday
- **Teens class:** Bible Study every last Sunday of the month

- **SYNERGY YOUTH:** start 9 Jan 2021

Saturday; **NEW** time slot: 4pm start

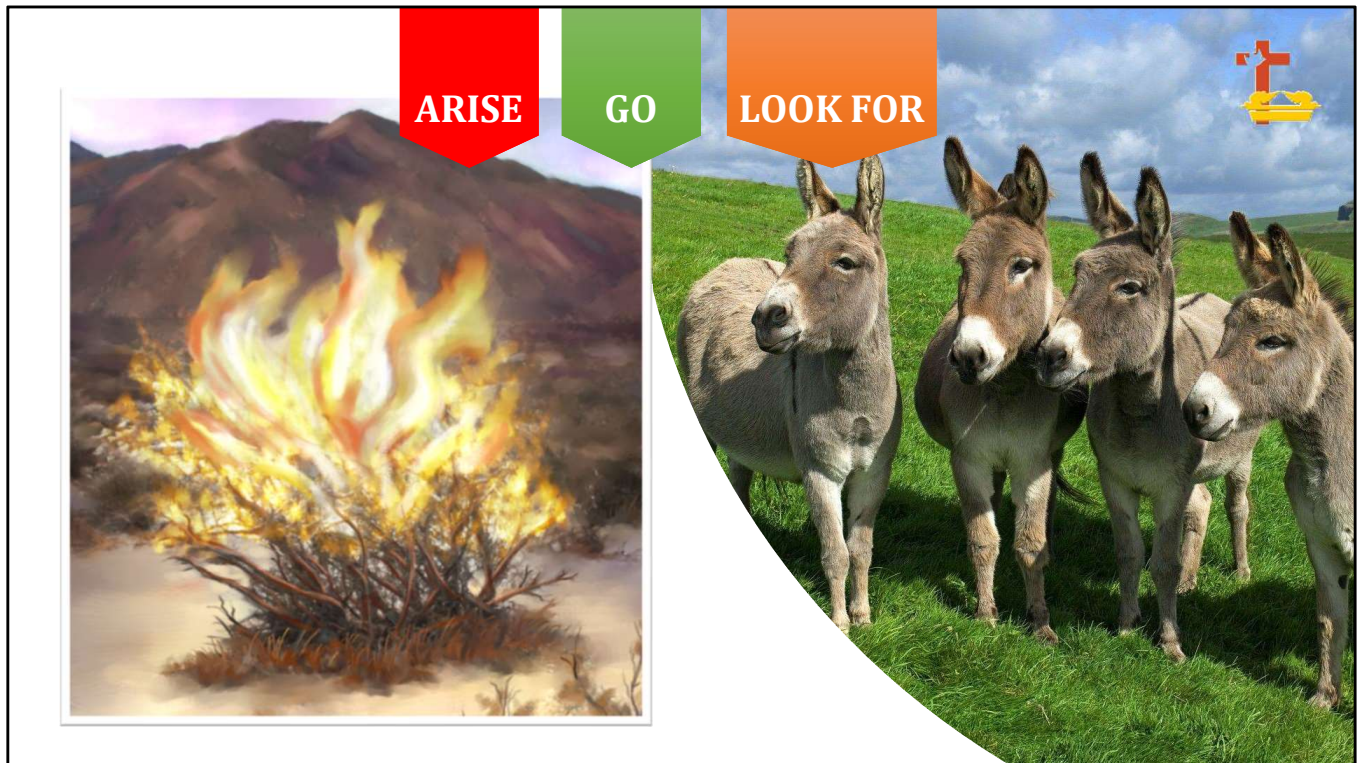
- **PRAYER MEETING:** Tuesday & Saturday

- **CELL GROUP** (family; ladies)
to be announced





Losing something is not a fun thing. But we might have lost something in our life and it created a big and deep hole in our heart. Whatever losses the believers may have, God is **powerful** to turn out that occasion, not only into some blessings in disguise but more than that, into a precious learning and a priceless process for the journey of our faith that will last for eternity! The Bible gave us so many example about losses. **Joseph** lost his family as he was sold to Egypt but that was how God revealed His mighty love for him. **Daniel** lost his freedom and lived in the exile but that was how God poured His wonderful love for him. The disciples lost their beloved Master, but Jesus said that it is good for them and indeed it opened the way for them, and then all believers, to experience the fulness of God's love. As we are continuing to learn from the book of **1 Samuel**, we are going to learn how to experience God's love through losses from **the life story of Saul**.



In the previous chapter, people of Israel asked for a king and then Samuel prepared them with the rule and the law for a king. No one have the idea who will be **the first king**. Somehow, there was a prince charming in Israel. He was a choice and handsome, a good-looking one, taller than anyone, was born in a good and wealthy family. But since God wanted to work somethings in his life, so the life story was shaken with a loss. And the lost must be quite big so that his father sent Saul out to look for it.

Losses may be **a good way** and **a God's way** to wake someone up from his comfort zone. Of course we must be responsible for what we have but still there are losses that out of our control.

ARISE, GO, and LOOK FOR: Wake up! Maybe there is something that we need **to change**. Maybe there is something we need **to improve**. Maybe there is something **to be thankful for**. Maybe there is something we need **to repent!** Truly, God wants to speak to us, He wants to **grab** your attention.

Moses rebuilt his life in the land of Midian and he was getting comfort with his life as a shepherd there. But then God shook his nest with a burning bush. God grabbed his attention, draw him into a private time and then conversation with God!

HAVE YOU FEEL EXHAUSTED?

ISAIAH 30:18

Therefore **the LORD will wait**,
that He may be gracious to you;
And therefore **He will be exalted**,
that He may have mercy on you.
For the LORD *is* a God of justice;
Blessed *are* all those who wait for Him.



Through the losses, Saul was keep trying to do his best to find the donkey in **the states of Benjamin** but there was no sign at all! But at the point when Saul almost give up, God did something! The way how God work is really unique and not always easy to be understood. But God is always in control.

God is always waiting for people to come to Him.

Isa.30:18 *Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.*

Yes.30:18 *Sebab itu TUHAN menanti-nantikan saatnya hendak menunjukkan kasih-Nya kepada kamu; sebab itu Ia bangkit hendak menyayangi kamu. Sebab TUHAN adalah Allah yang adil; berbahagialah semua orang yang menanti-nantikan Dia!*



OPEN YOUR EARS AND LISTEN !!!

⁶ And he (the servant) said to him, "Look now, *there is* in this city **a man of God**, and *he is* an honorable man; all that he says surely comes to pass. So **let us go there**; perhaps he can show us the way that we should go."

⁷ Then Saul said to his servant, "But look, *if* we go, what shall we bring the man? For the bread in our vessels **is all gone**, and *there is* no present to bring to the man of God. **What do we have?**"

⁸ And the servant answered Saul again and said, "Look, I have here at hand **one-fourth of a shekel of silver**. I will give *that* to the man of God, to tell us our way."

Saul had **nothing** when he showed up himself in the presence of God! And in the case of Saul, it might the best situation to draw him close to God's presence. The only thing they had just a quarter shekel of silver, so he just put himself in the hand of his servant!

A quarter of a shekel of silver ~ 2.85 grams of silver [Convert shekel \[Hebrew\] to gram - Conversion of Measurement Units \(convertunits.com\)](https://convertunits.com/)

Wedding ring approx. 6 grams

Abraham bought the cave for 400 shekel of silver; Joseph was sold for 20 shekel of silver.

God can use **a simple lowly servant** (something that very easy to be ignored) to speak and draw someone closer to Him. When something lost in our life, we must open our ears to listen to what God want to say. Most times, God's words is just like **a still small voice** *1Ki.19:12*, but still it is the voice of God that we must not ignore!

A WONDERFUL MEETING

¹⁴ So they went up to the city. As they were coming into the city, there was Samuel, coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.

¹⁵ Now **the LORD** had told Samuel in his ear **the day before Saul came**, saying, ¹⁶ "Tomorrow about this time **I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin**, and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because **their cry has come to Me.**"

**For My
thoughts are not
your thoughts,
nor are your
ways My ways.**



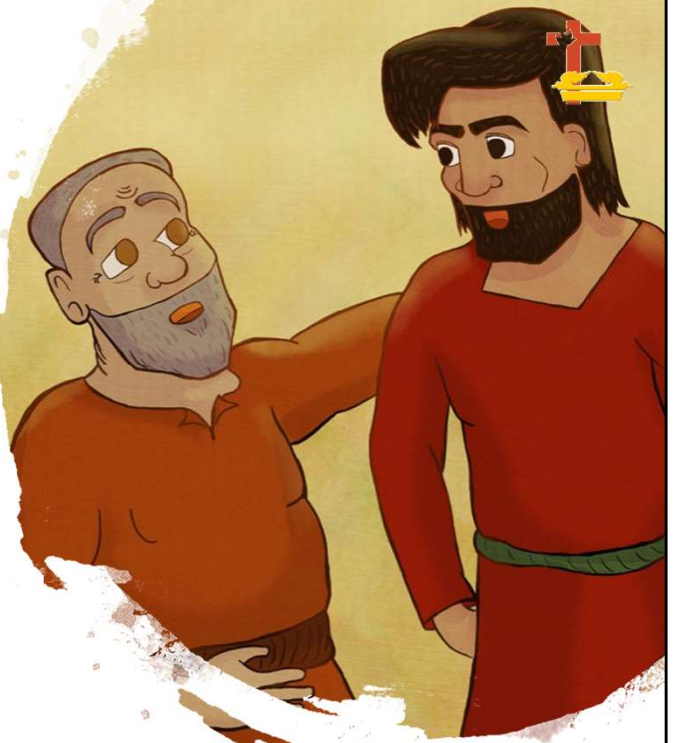
Saul and his servant may see that exhausted event as the donkey that lost, but Samuel understood it **differently** as God told Him that it was Him who sent a man from Benjamin to Samuel! At the first sight, we may not know what actually happen in our life from God's persepective. In another word, even we can say that the losses were the answer of Israel people's prayer! Now, from our perspective as we read from the Bible, it all was the love of God, a wonderful meeting and also the plan of peace for His people. God can definitelt work through our losses.

Isa.55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

A TURNING POINT MEET THE MAN OF GOD

¹⁹ Samuel answered Saul and said, “I *am* the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today; and tomorrow I will let you go and will tell you all that *is* in your heart. ²⁰ But as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, **do not be anxious** about them, for they have been found.

²² Now Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall, and had them sit in **the place of honor** among those who were invited; there *were* about 30 persons. ²³ And Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the (best) portion which I gave you, of which I said to you: Set it apart.”



All worries and anxieties now **turned out** into blessings when Saul and his servants met the man of God! Just imagine what would happen if Saul did not open his ears to his servant! They did not meet Samuel, they did not get the message of God.

Jesus is the answer for any loss we may suffer. The woman that had lost everything in her life then had her condition changed dramatically when she met Jesus and touched His clothes!

Mark.5:25-26 ²⁵ Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.



GOD WANTS YOU AT THE TOP OF THE HOUSE

²⁵ When they had come down from the high place into the city, *Samuel* spoke with Saul **on the top of the house**. ²⁶ They arose early; and it was about the dawning of the day that Samuel called to Saul **on the top of the house**, saying, "Get up, that I may send you on your way." And Saul arose, and both of them went outside, he and Samuel.

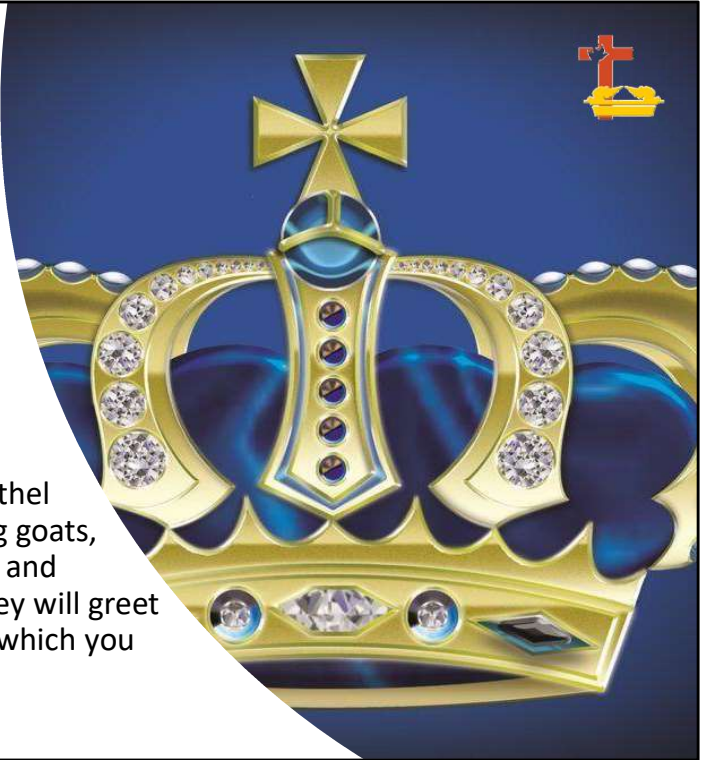
The blessing was not only the feast that put Saul in the honour place. More than that, Samuel then spoke with Saul at **the top of the house**. Conversation at the top of the house is not just the regular one.

The housetop is the place where Peter prayed and got the vision *Ac.10:9-11*. The losses that Saul experienced somehow led him to go to the housetop together with the man of God, to seek the will of God, and to be prepared for His divine plan!

MORE THAN DONKEYS

Anointed as the king of Israel
PLUS 3 signs that follow

1. You will find two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, 'The donkeys which you went to look for **have been found** **10:2**
2. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. And they will greet you and give you **two loaves of bread**, which you shall receive from their hands **10:3-4**



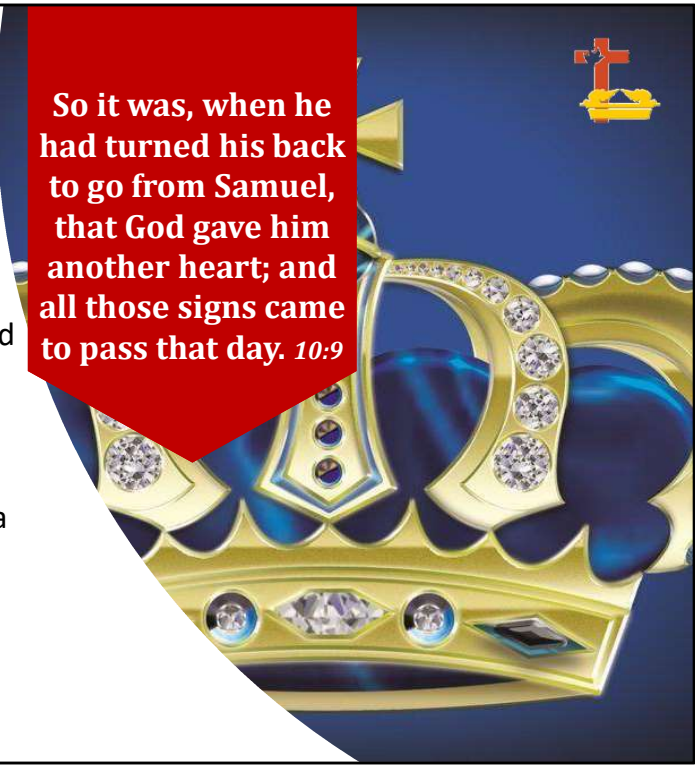
Beginning with the journey to find the lost donkeys, now Saul got far more than that! After a thorough conversation and prayer at the housetop, Samuel as the man of God then anointed Saul as the king of Israel. That was not the official one, but that was the first anointing for Saul, preparing and dedicated his life to be the king, the top leader for Israel.

And then Samuel told another 3 signs that will happen to confirm the calling to be a king. **FIRST**, the message of joy! Just right at the tomb, where people normally mourn and grieve, 2 men would come to Saul and give the message of joy. What had been lost now it is found! After we met Jesus, anything that was lost in our life will be completed, because we are complete in Jesus *Col.2:10*. **SECOND**, the double portion! Saul not only receive one, but **two loaves of bread**. Receiving something in double means **the birthright**! Saul got heavenly affirmation as the firstborn who will lead the nation of Israel. Now in our days, believers may have unlimited double portion as we are called as the general assembly and the church of the firstborn *Heb.12:23*.

MORE THAN DONKEYS

Anointed as the king of Israel
PLUS 3 signs that follow

3. After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison *is*. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a **group of prophets** coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. Then **the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you**, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man **10:5-6**

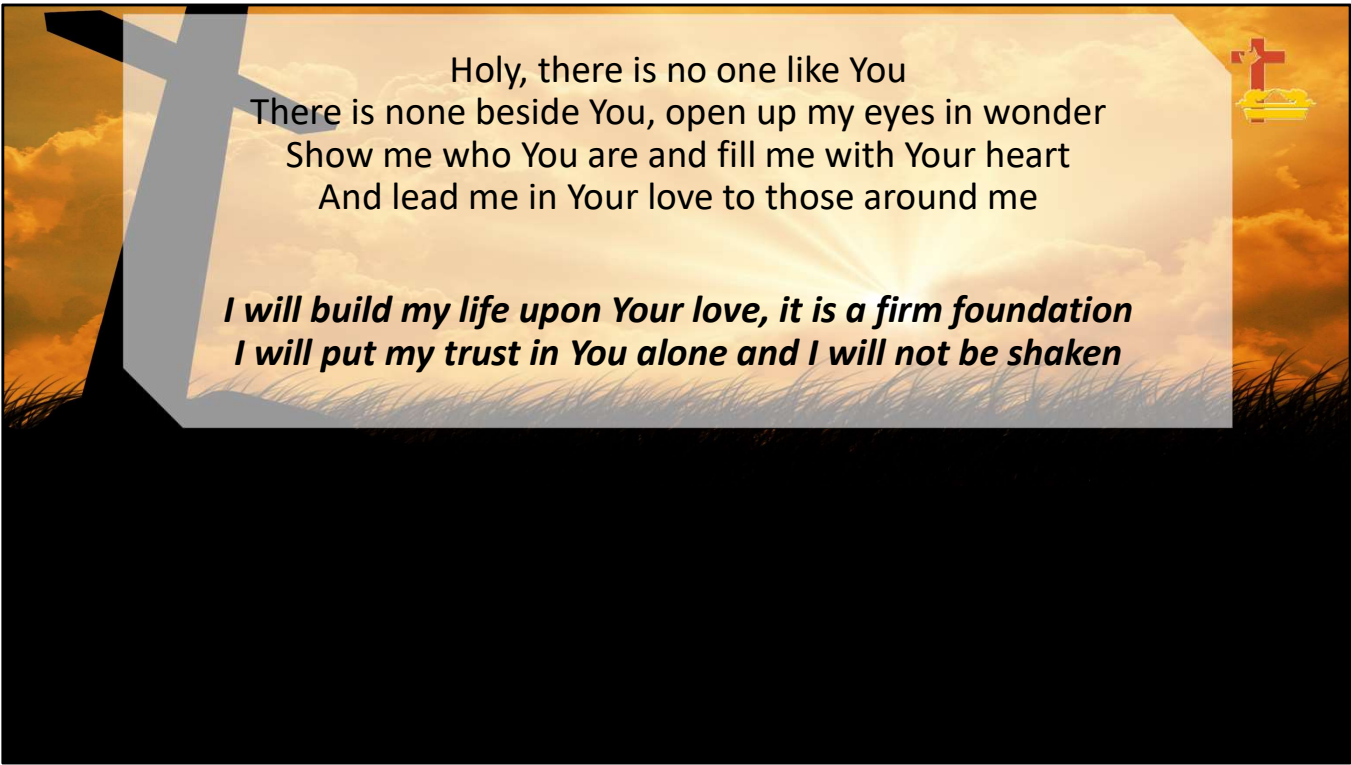


So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. **10:9**

And the last but not least, Saul got the anointing from heaven: the Holy Spirit come upon him and he experienced the Holy Spirit. The way Holy Spirit now works in the New Testament different rather than the Old Testament. We receive the better one since now we had been redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

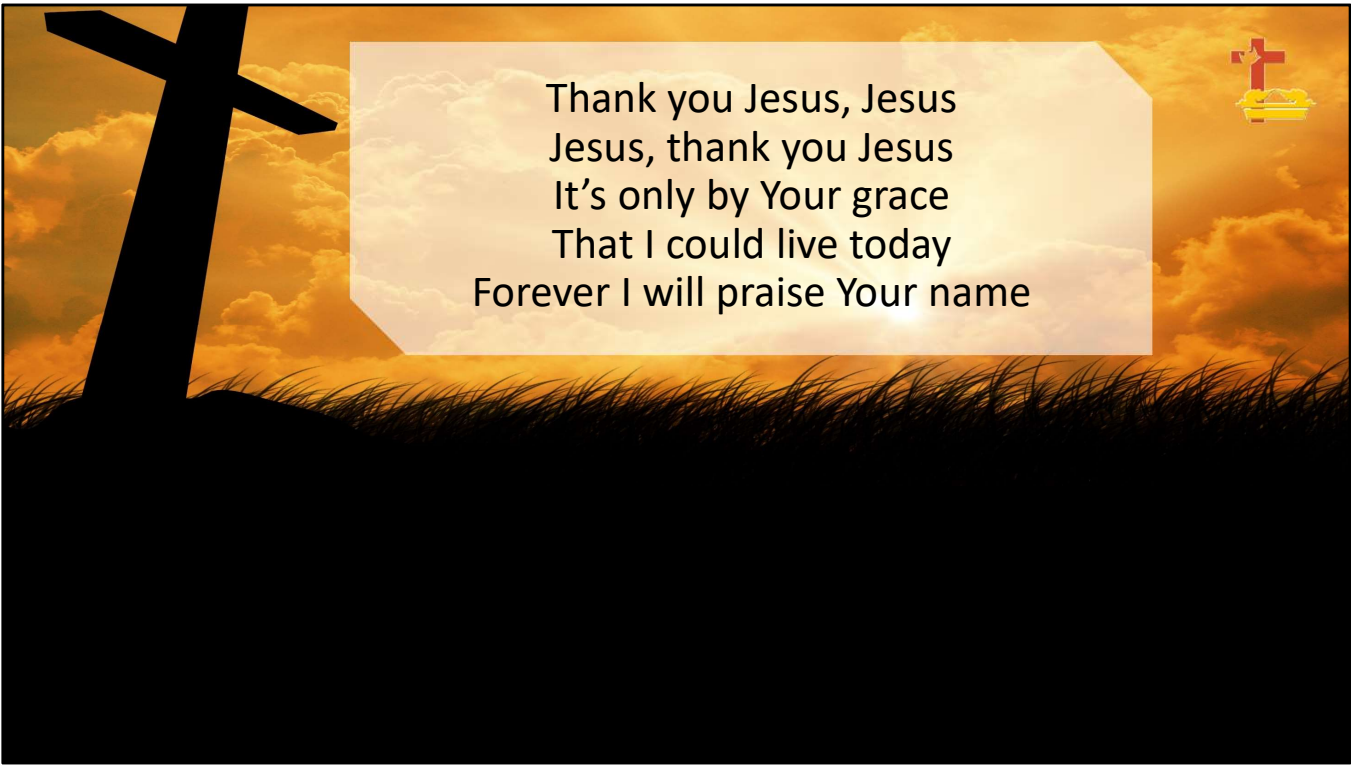
Beginning with the anxious feeling because the donkeys that lost, now Saul go home as the new man, a man that anointed, not only as the king, but also from the Holy Spirit. Truly that was the love of God, and that is how believers can experience the love of God through losses.

1. Go, arise, and look for it
2. But don't forget to open your ears to the still small voice
3. Meet the man of God, meet Jesus, who mighty to turn out your situation and condition
4. Even you will get more than what had been lost in your life



Holy, there is no one like You
There is none beside You, open up my eyes in wonder
Show me who You are and fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

***I will build my life upon Your love, it is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone and I will not be shaken***



Thank you Jesus, Jesus
Jesus, thank you Jesus
It's only by Your grace
That I could live today
Forever I will praise Your name

