

Week 31
1 Samuel

Key Verse: O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love. ESV Psalm 59:17

1 Samuel 15-16 Summary

When God gives a command He does not want partial obedience. God told Saul, “I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.”(1 Samuel 15:2-3 NIV84) Saul believed his way was better than God’s and not only spares King Agag but also the best of the livestock. This was an unspeakably wicked nation, who had tried to exterminate God’s people over and over again. They were not just waging war on Israel they were opposing the Almighty God. God was demanding full obedience in bring judgment on the Amalekites.

Serving God involves doing the will of God in the right way, at the right time, and for the right reason. God gave Saul a second chance to do what He commanded and Saul fail miserably. His disobedience cost him dearly. As Samuel turned away Saul grabbed the tassels on the hem of Samuel’s garment (Numbers 15:38-39) and tore the prophet’s robe (1 Kings 11:29-39). Samuel used the occurrence as an object lesson and announced to Saul the kingdom would be torn from him.

In chapter 16, the Lord sent Samuel on a new mission to anoint a new king over Israel. The Lord said, “Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, I have chosen one of his sons to be king”. (1 Samuel 16:1) David, the youngest son of Jesse was chosen by the Lord to take Saul’s place, even though it would be some time before he would actually sit on the throne. David was a man after God’s own heart. God alone can search the human heart and know what a person’s motives really are. (1 Chronicles 28:9; Jeremiah 17:10; Hebrews 4:12)

God’s hand was upon David as he defeated Goliath and the Philistines. David’s victories continued to throw fuel on the fire of Saul’s envy and anger. Even though Saul made a promise to his son Jonathan he would not kill David, he continued to pursue David. God had removed his Holy Spirit from Saul and he was being controlled by Satan. Even though Saul continually pursued David, David was faithful to the LORD, and the Lord gave him numerous victories and protection.

After the people of Jabesh Gilead buried the bones of their king and his sons, they fasted for seven days. It was their tribute to Saul and his sons. What a sad end to a man who at one time had the Spirit of the Lord on him. God would have let him have a victorious reign as the people’s choice, but when disobedience, pride, and self sufficiency got in the way disaster was certain. His choices not only affected him but his sons as well.

Day 1: 1 Samuel 19-21 - Saul’s Pursuit

1 Samuel 18: 20-21: Now Saul’s daughter, Michal, was in love with David. When they told Saul about it, he was pleased. “I will give her to him,” he thought, “so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” Saul was willing do anything to destroy

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David even if it took giving his daughter in marriage. In chapter 19, he openly admitted to Jonathan and those in his court that he intended to have his son-in-law killed.

Jonathan, Saul's son, was a devoted friend to David. He knew the Spirit of God was on David and that David would eventually reign as King of Israel. Jonathan went to great lengths to protect David from his father, even to the point his own father threatened to kill him. (*Note: Christ will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Revelation 19:1-16.*)

1. Jonathan presents his father with two arguments as to why he should not kill David, what were they? (1 Samuel 19:3-4)

2. Saul invited David to the feast of the New Moon, but Jonathan feared for David life. (*Note: God in His wisdom has given a calendar in the sky for all to see. He uses the sun and moon to establish days, months, years, and also His appointed observances, Genesis 1:14. A critical component to His calendar is the new moon, which starts each Biblical month. God commanded special offerings on each new moon, and one special new moon is even a Feast day called the Feast of Trumpets, Isaiah 66:23.*) What was the plan Jonathan shared with David to notify him if it was safe to attend the feast? (1 Samuel 20:11-34)

3. David was on the run from Saul and entered the city of Nob. He went to Ahimelech the priest and requested two things. What was the first thing he requested and from where did Ahimelech get this first request? (1 Samuel 21)

What was the second thing he requested and what did Ahimelech give him?

4. Who was there that day and heard Ahimelech and David's conversation?

Prayer Focus: Psalm 25:1-22

Day 2: Samuel 22-24 Saul Had Revenge On His Mind, but Mercy is Shown to Him.

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5. Doeg brought news of his visit in Nob to Saul. Who did Saul call for when he heard Doeg's report? _____

6. What did Ahimelech say about David? What was Saul's response to Ahimelech?

7. The son of Ahimelech escaped the execution that Saul ordered. What did his son bring with him? (1 Samuel 23)

8. Why did David ask for the ephod? What was the ephod? (Exodus 28:1-2; 6-14) What was kept in the ephod? (Exodus 28:30; Leviticus 8:8)

9. What did David ask? What was God's response? (The Urim ("lights") and Thummim ("perfections") were gemstones that were carried by the high priest of Israel to determine God's will in some situations.)

10. David fled Keilah in order to escape Saul's pursuit. David returned to the strongholds in the wilderness and remained in the mountain of Ziph. Who came to the wilderness to meet David and what was the purpose of him coming?

11. In 1 Samuel 24, Saul returned from following the Philistines and continued to seek David. What happened in a cave on the Rocks of the Wild Goats? What was Saul's response?

Prayer Focus – Is there a situation in your life you are seeking revenge? Considering David's mercy to Saul, what do you think God would have you do? Do you trust God to make things right or not?

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Day 3 - 1 Samuel 25-27 Abigail an Intelligent Beauty/Saul's Life is Spared a Second Time

“Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah”. (1 Samuel 25:1) 1 Samuel began with the last judge's birth and throughout this book Samuel was shown as a man who remained faithful to God. The people of Israel didn't always obey Samuel when he was alive but they were careful to honor him when he died. Such is human nature. (Matthew 23:27-28)

12. David and his men had provided protection for Nabal's shepherds out in the fields. On a feast day David sends his men to ask Nabal to provide whatever he has for them. What was Nabal's reply to David's request? How did David respond to Nabal's reply?

13. Who came to Nabal's defense and what action did they take? What happened to Nabal the next day? What happened to Abigail?

We all go through difficulties in life and how we deal with those difficulties determines the outcome. In 1 Samuel 25, we come across an incredible story in which practical tips for overcoming difficulties and preserving the integrity of life are vividly portrayed in Abigail.

14. What are some practical tips you can take from this story and use in overcoming difficulties?

In 1 Samuel 26, the Ziphites tell Saul that David is hiding on the hill of Hakilah. Saul takes three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David. While Saul and his men lie sleeping David and Abishai, the commander of his army enter the camp. Abishai asked David to allow him to pin Saul to the ground.

David had two opportunities to kill Saul, but because he was a man of God, he knew that God was the one who had placed Saul on the throne and He would be the one who would remove him. David's faith was

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in the Lord, for only the Lord could be his defense and refuge. That didn't mean that David rejected any plan for escape, because God sometimes uses human means to accomplish his purpose.

15. David spared Saul a second time and Saul again gave his speech of insincere confession of sin. David knew what was really in Saul's heart and fear overwhelmed him. What action did he take because of his fear?

David was not perfect and there were times fear of Saul caused him to waver in his faith. This is seen when he gets weary of the chase and decides to live with the Philistines. David deceived King Achish of Gath into thinking he would be his servant forever. **FINISH THIS**

Prayer Focus: Do you have a problem with anger? Ask the Lord to help you overcome this area of defeat in your life.

Day 4 - 1 Samuel 28 Ungodly Sources

16. 1 Samuel 28 is the account of a strange event. As the Philistines marched toward the Israelites defeat was on the horizon. Saul in desperation seeks to get in touch with the Lord and when he doesn't get a response from Him, he seeks advice from the ungodly. Why does Saul consult a witch? What was the message Saul received from this strange event and who gave the message?

17. What are some methods that Christians use (good and bad) when consulting God's will?

1 Samuel 29 – The Philistines Reject David

18. What happened in 1 Samuel 29? (Summarize)

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1 Samuel 30-31 – David’s Conflict/The End of a Reign

1. What happened to Ziklag while David was with the Philistine army?

2. Who gave David and his army vital information concerning the raid? (1 Samuel 30:11-15)

3. 1 Samuel 31 tells us about Saul’s last battle.
Where was this battle fought? What happened during the battle? How did Saul die?

4. What can we learn from Saul’s negative choices?

Prayer Focus: Psalm 54 – God is our help in time of trouble.

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