

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 30:1-31:13

"The death of a king" – November 19th, 2017



Introduction

There are only two ways to live: with God as King or ourselves as king/queen. Though creation began with Adam and Eve loving, trusting and obeying God's good rule, they eventually chose to believe Satan's lies about God. Sadly, they rejected God's rule and declared themselves god ([Genesis 3:5](#)). With Adam as our representative, every one of us is born with a sinful nature, an inclination toward self-rule and self-reliance ([Romans 5:12-21](#)). 1 Samuel is a book about leadership: God's people looking for a leader to follow; a leader who will protect and lead them to true life. The contrast between two leaders (David and Saul) is a contrast between two ways to live – a choice we must all make. As 1 Samuel comes to a close Saul's end and David's rise leaves us at that decision point. What way will you choose to live?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- I. Humility comes before honor (30:1-31)
- II. Pride goes before destruction (31:1-13)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 30:1-31](#)

When David and his men come back to Ziklag after narrowly escaping the crisis in chapter 29, they find their city burned to the ground and their family's kidnapped by the Amalekites. Disheartened, David's men turn to kill him because Philistia was his plan since the beginning ([27:1](#)). David has hit rock bottom, but finally turns to the Lord in repentance and faith. What does it mean for David to 'strengthen himself in the LORD his God'? How do we do that when we are weak as a child of God?

With God's promise to David that they *will* overtake the Amalekites, he and his men set out on a rescue mission. Not knowing where the Amalekites were, they are helped by the Egyptian slave they came across in the desert. With his help, they find the Amalekites and God gives them a decisive victory. What do we learn about seeking God's will from David's example here? Why do you think God doesn't provide us the next 5 steps or strength for the next 5 years when we're looking at our future?

When David and his men come back from defeating the Amalekites, we see David's gracious leadership with the 200 who were left behind at the brook Besor and the 400

who went into battle with him. We've also seen his generosity with the Egyptian and with the elders in Judah. What difference does tasting and seeing God's grace make in how we relate to others? What are ways we can remember God's grace so as to not lose sight of who God is and what He has done for us (something David is doing for the ungrateful men who think they won the victory *themselves*).

Additional reading: Proverbs 18:12, Isaiah 40:28-31, Hebrews 4:16, Ephesians 2:8-10

2) Read [1 Samuel 31:1-13](#)

Saul's ending is tragic. But even more tragic about how he ends his life is what we *don't* hear from him in the end. Even to his end, Saul persists in his own way and refuses to humble himself and turn to God in repentance. He has lived life desperate to not be made a fool in the eyes of man, and in the end the fear of man (we could say, his pride) leads to his ruin. When the Philistines recover his body the next day, they declare victory over Israel and over Israel's god – they assume their gods (such as Dagon or Ashtaroth) are stronger than Yahweh. When Jesus was buried, His disciples lost hope and His enemies assumed the same victory over God. What hope does Jesus' resurrection offer us when it seems that there *is* no hope or it appears God has lost?

Additional reading: Proverbs 16:18, Philippians 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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