

Discussion Guide and Study Notes

Please use this guide in your Life Group discussion to help glean the most from our Sunday morning teaching. These notes are also excellent for your personal study and growth.

Till [Get the soil ready]

Sunday's message focused on the beginning of Saul's reign. We have opportunity here to look at the end.

- Have you ever wondered why God takes the kingdom away from Saul but not David? Before you say, "Because Saul never repented" see 1 Sam. 15:24-25. There's more to it than that (we'll see it below), but remind each other what David did to displease God.
- How can the following be examples of faith?
 - Honoring God
 - Seeking God for deliverance
 - Asking God for anything.

Sow [What God wants us to hear]

- Each story in the books of Samuel illustrate one or more of the following ideas. Sometimes, the example is how NOT to do it:
 - Honoring God (Example: Eli and his sons did not honor God)
 - Seeking God for Deliverance (Example: David & Goliath)
 - Asking God for anything (Example: Hannah asked God for a son. By the way, Samuel means "Asked of God.").
- In the beginning of Saul's story, he illustrates these qualities well. See 1 Samuel 9:3-10 and 11:1-11 for example.



Tend [Working the truth into our hearts]

- So, where did Saul go wrong?
- When it came to the Lord, Saul stopped honoring, seeking his deliverance, and asking.
 - Read 1 Sam. 13:1-14 Note: the custom to formally ask God would involve a prophet and a sacrifice. Did Saul follow this prescription?
 - Read 1 Sam. 14:24-26. Who was to be avenged? What did Saul impose on his men? What did this almost cost him (14:44-45)? By the way, how could Saul have felt before his men. . .wise, brave, foolish, impulsive, etc.?
 - Read 1 Sam. 15:1-3 and 8-9. Did Saul honor God by obeying him?
- What was Saul's real issue? See the following passages for a hint: 1 Sam. 13:7, 14:45, and 15:12, 24-25, 30.

Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

- Saul's issue is what plagues us all: pride, how we look before others, desire for glory, desire for honor, fearing men over God, etc.
- How do these same issues manifest today? Give examples.
- How do these same issues manifest in our own lives? Yes, give examples.
- Pick a virtue!
 - Honor God: we do this by obeying. What command has he given but you've ignored? Or, what command have you not ignored but need to continue to follow?
 - God delivers: Stuck in a sin? Someone making your life miserable? You can try to deliver yourself but why? Call on the Lord for deliverance.
 - Ask God: What do you need? By asking him you acknowledge that you can't meet the need but he can. It's an act of trust.

Preview: The David & Goliath story (1 Sam. 17) is a childhood Sunday school classic. But, it's really a war graphic story. Check it out.

