

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

April 8, 2020

Introduction

As we continue through the Bible, we are currently in 1 Samuel. I am confident the scripture will enrich you, and I hope my random thoughts will inspire you to dig deeper. (All scripture is copied from the New King James Bible.)

1 Samuel 11:14-15

¹⁴ Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there." ¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they made sacrifices of peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

We already saw that Saul was appointed king in chapter 10 verses 1 and 24. So really this is a "renewing of the kingdom." Why go to Gilgal though? Look at Joshua 4:19-24, Gilgal is where the establishment of Israel as a nation - taking the promised land - began. This is where Joshua and all the men of Israel paused in plain sight of the city of Jericho to observe the Passover, renew the vow of circumcision, and re-dedicate themselves to the Lord before inheriting God's promise. So, perhaps they are renewing Saul's kingship here, but perhaps they are recognizing *God's answer to their request for a king* and acknowledging that they are ultimately the Lord's kingdom. Check out Matthew 6:8-10...your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

1 Samuel 12:20-25

²⁰ Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. ²¹ And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing. ²² For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people. ²³ Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way. ²⁴ Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. ²⁵ But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

I think verse 20 is a great encouragement; we are never too far from the mighty, loving hand of God if we choose to repent and seek Him. Verses 21 and 22 tell me there is nothing on this earth that can save - only Jesus saves. In verse 23, Samuel demonstrates his great love for the Lord in that he will not cease to do His will - even if it means loving and praying for a backstabbing, disobedient people. This entire passage is a beautiful picture of the fullness of God's love and justice.

God's love was never more clearly demonstrated than it was this week on Calvary. God is just and will return to make all things right. Amen.