

Life of David

Lesson 12

Text

1 Samuel 16:1-23

Background

Mixed into the list of victories Saul had over the enemies of Israel is a couple accounts of Saul's lack of obedience to the Lord. Not only was Saul susceptible to making rash vows, but his concern with making Israel happy with him over his own obedience to the Lord was his final downfall. Facing what seemed to be a final test of sorts, Saul was tasked with utterly destroying the Amalekites. Not only did he spare the king of the Amalekites, but he held back the prime sheep and oxen for what he said would be a sacrifice to the Lord.

Whether this was the intention or not, Saul was disobedient. God was looking for a sacrifice, he was looking for Saul to obey Him. Samuel tells Saul, **“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.”** Saul showed a track record of not obeying the Lord. This is just the latest example. For that, Samuel tells him, **“Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king.”**

We ended last week's reading with Samuel doing what Saul was supposed to. Samuel kills Agag and then goes to grieve over Saul. As we dig into this week's reading in chapter 16, we get our first glimpse of the eventual replacement of Saul as king over Israel. This, of course, is the aforementioned “man after his own heart”, David.

Day 1 - Read and Listen

1. Read and/or listen to the passage twice. If possible, use different translations. I highly recommend having the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.

Day 2 - Observing the Text

2. Who are the characters listed in the passage? As much as the passage tells you, write down any titles, traits, or additional information about each of the characters in the narrative.

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3. Where does the narrative take place? List out any locations mentioned. To be more specific, study a map from the timeframe of 1 Samuel (approximately 1105 - 971 BC) and see if you can find the locations on a map. Write down any observations from this exercise.

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4. Summarize the main plot points from the passage in the space below.

Day 3 - Understanding the Narrative

5. Name one or more of the conflicts from the passage and how they were resolved or left unresolved.

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6. How does the narrative fit into what you already learned about 1 Samuel? Consider, if applicable, the following: How does the narrative tie to the larger picture of a coming royal priesthood? Do you see any foreshadowing of Jesus as King?

Day 4 - Additional Study

7. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

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8. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links “purposeful parallels.” If so, write those down below.

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9. **Word Studies:** Use the “Blue Letter Bible” or your favorite word study method to look up any words of your choice in the passage. Be prepared to share your findings with your group. Remember, this is the Old Testament. You will be looking up Hebrew words.

Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

10. **Application:** Man, even Godly man, can be deceived by appearances! Verse 7 tells us, “**For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.**” How does this truth change the way you look at those around you? What about leaders around you? Write some reflections below on this truth.

11. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Reflections

As you've had time to meditate on this week's passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you'd like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

Notes from the Teaching

Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____
