

## FINAL STUDY NOTES – *1 Samuel Chapters 9 - 11* 8/4-5/2025

### CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)**  
**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

**MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzlrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>**

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One tap mobile: +16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)  
Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbUX7eWEpN>

**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).**

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live-map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* ([mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com)),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

**MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340**

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### OPENING PRAYER

***1 SAMUEL – Chapter 9 – Saul Chosen to be King (vs. 1-26); Saul Anointed King – (vs 27-Chapter 10:1-16); Saul Proclaimed King – (vs. 17-27); Chapter 11 - Saul Saves Jabesh Gilead - (vs. 1-15).***

- In chapter 9, we begin to get a profile of a man who was appointed to be the first king over Israel. We can learn much from Godly men in their obedient service to Him. In Saul, there is much to be learned in his failure as the first king of Israel. *(1Sa 15:17) So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"*

**Saul Chosen to Be King- Tall, handsome, good family background!**

***1Sa 9:1 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power*** (substance or wealth).

- **Kish was a wealthy man of the tribe of Benjamin.** It was not too long ago that the tribe of Benjamin was almost wiped out with the exception of six hundred men, during the period of civil, internal strife. It was still rather small at this point. Kish was from this small tribe of Benjamin. He was a wealthy man.

**1Sa 9:2** *And he had a choice (good sized) and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.*

- **He was quite tall.** When he would stand in a crowd, the rest of the people's heads would be at the shoulder height. From the shoulder upward, he was taller than any of them. Besides that, he was good looking. He had these marvelous, natural advantages.
- **It is true that size and looks are not everything.** Isaac Watts was a genius of a man who wrote many of the hymns that we sing. He was a brilliant man, a genius. He was only about four feet ten inches tall. He was a little sensitive about being a so short. He wrote one day, "Were I so tall to reach the poles, or span the oceans with my hand, I must be measured by my soul: for the mind is the standard of man."

**1Sa 9:3-5** *Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. And Kish said to his son Saul, "Please take one of the servants with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." [4] So he passed through the mountains of Ephraim and through the land of Shalisha, but they did not find them. Then they passed through the land of Shaalim, and they were not there. Then he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find them. [5] When they had come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us return, lest my father cease caring about the donkeys and become worried about us."*

- **We are given an insight into the family.** Saul came from a good home where he knew that a prolonged absence would cause his father to begin to worry about him. If you have come from a good home, loving parents, a home of a lot of security, and love, put that at the top in your list of blessings. It is a tremendous blessing to come from a good home with a loving environment. Saul had that advantage, a good home life.
- **We must remember that we are dealing with a patriarch type of society.** Though Saul is still under his father, a wealthy man, he was probably about thirty seven years old. As soon as he was anointed king, he conscripts an army, taking 2,000 men under his leadership, and 1,000 men under his son Jonathan. So just shortly after his becoming king, his son Jonathan was old enough to take leadership of a 1,000 men army. So, Jonathan would have to be at least 20 years old, making Saul around thirty seven years old. There were still strong family ties, indicating the strength of the family.

**1Sa 9:6-9** *And he said to him, "Look now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he says surely comes to pass. So let us go there; perhaps he can show us the way that we should go." [7] Then Saul said to his servant, "But look, if we go, what shall we bring the man? For the bread in our vessels is all gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?" [8] And the servant answered Saul again and said, "Look, I have here at hand one-fourth of a shekel of silver. I will give that to the man of God, to tell us our way." [9] (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he spoke thus: "Come, let us go to the seer," for he who is now called a prophet was formerly called a seer.)*

- A "seer" was a man who could see into the spiritual realm, having a spiritual perception above the ordinary man. Saul was worried because the custom was that when you went to a prophet of God to get advice or guidance, you would use an honorarium, a present. Saul did not have anything. They had spent all their bread, but the servant fortunately had a fourth part of a shekel.

**1Sa 9:10-13** *Then Saul said to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was. [11] As they went up the hill to the city, they met some young women going out to draw water, and said to them, "Is the seer here?" [12] And they answered them and said, "Yes, there he is, just ahead of you. Hurry now; for today he came to this city, because there is a sacrifice of the people today on the high place. [13] As soon as you come into the city, you will surely find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now therefore, go up, for about this time you will find him."*

- **You are in luck. The seer is here.** He just came to the city and the people are going to sacrifice today. If you hurry, you can find him. The people are waiting, and they will not eat until he blesses the sacrifice. Notice the custom of blessing your food before you eat it. Here is the beginning of it. Jesus also followed this very good custom, taking bread, and blessing it before He broke it, giving thanks to God for His provision. To bless God for He has been great in His provision for us.

**1Sa 9:14-16** *So they went up to the city. As they were coming into the city, there was Samuel, coming out toward them on his way up to the high place. [15] Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came, saying, [16] "Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin (A good example of the spiritual gift of the word of knowledge!), and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel (A good example of the spiritual gift of the word of wisdom, which is what you are to do with the word of knowledge), that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me."*

- **Samuel and Saul just ran into each other.** Samuel was expecting to find the leader for Israel the next day because the day before the LORD had spoken to his ear, privately, by a secret whisper or a still small voice, saying that *tomorrow about this time* you are going to meet the man that I have chosen."
- **Notice how God often works in very common, natural ways in our lives.** I imagine that when those donkeys ran away there was quite a bit of concern. Where did they go now? It was a hardship and an inconvenience. The real story or issue is not the lost donkeys, but the real issue is to bring Saul to Samuel, this man of God, that he might anoint him as the captain of God's people over Israel.
- **God is able, in very natural ways, to guide our lives in the fulfilling of His plan and purpose.** The Bible says (*Psa 37:5,23*) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.[23] *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.*
- **A man whose life is committed to God is a man who is being led and guided by God. In light of this truth, how committed am I to Him?**
- **Saul was searching for these donkeys in a random way.** Yet God was leading him all the way, bringing him to the place where the prophet just so happened to come there today.

**1Sa 9:17** *So when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, "There he is, the man of whom I spoke to you. This one shall reign over My people."*

- **I envy Samuel in this situation.** It would be exciting to have God speak to you like that. On one day God might say, "Hey, tomorrow about this time, you are going to meet the man." The next day when you see this tall, good looking guy coming, the LORD says, "Hey, that's the one I was talking about."

**1Sa 9:18** *Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, "Please tell me, where is the seer's house?"*

- **Saul did not know Samuel.** He was just asking for directions to the prophet's house.

**1Sa 9:19** *Samuel answered Saul and said, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today; and tomorrow I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart."*

- **This was probably to assure Saul that he was a true prophet of God.** Saul did not mention anything about having lost donkeys. Yet, Samuel, the prophet of God, speaks the very thing that is on his heart, about which he was worried.

**1Sa 9:20** *But as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago (another word of knowledge, Saul had never said anything to Samuel about donkeys), do not be anxious about them, for they have been found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you and on all your father's house?"*

- **Notice Samuel's word of knowledge regarding the donkeys is going to boost Saul's confidence in the fact that Samuel hears from God!**
- **God is fashioning or strengthening Saul's faith** for the next revelation that God is going to give to him through Samuel. That is, that you are going to be the next king of Israel. God is faithful to do that in our lives! At times we will look back when God calls us to do something or some big thing happens in our life and we realize that He has been preparing me all along the way for this! Here we see God leaving His fingerprints all over the place in developing and nurturing Saul's faith
- **On whom is all the desire of Israel?** Saul says, "Wait a minute! What are you laying on me, man?"

**1Sa 9:21** *And Saul answered and said, "Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest (they had almost been eliminated) of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?"*

- Here we see that Saul, in the beginning, appears to be a man of great humility. When he is told by Samuel, “You and on all your father’s house, is all the desire of Israel.” He replied, “Hey, you have made a mistake!

*1Sa 9:22-23 Now Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall, and had them sit in the place of honor among those who were invited; there were about thirty persons. [23] And Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the portion (most choice cut) which I gave you, of which I said to you, ‘Set it apart.’”*

- *Bring the portion. The thigh with its upper part, which is best part of the meat, a generous portion* had been given to him, indicating that Saul was sitting at the table as the honored guest.

*1Sa 9:24-25 So the cook took up the thigh with its upper part and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, “Here it is, what was kept back. It was set apart for you. Eat; for until this time it has been kept for you, since I said I invited the people.” So Saul ate with Samuel that day. [25] When they had come down from the high place into the city, Samuel spoke with Saul on the top of the house.*

- The tops of the houses in Israel were flat, like a patio. It was not some kind of weird thing for them to perch on the eaves and be talking. Peter was on the housetop praying when he received the vision. If you walk along the walls of Jerusalem, you can see the tops of the houses, having their patios and clothes hanging and the kids playing.

*1Sa 9:26 They arose early; and it was about the dawning of the day that Samuel called to Saul on the top of the house, saying, “Get up, that I may send you on your way.” And Saul arose, and both of them went outside, he and Samuel.*

- The next morning as the day is beginning, Saul was still sleeping. Samuel woke him up, and called him up to the top of the house so that he might commune with him, and send him on his way.

*1Sa 9:27 As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, “Tell the servant to go on ahead of us.” And he went on. “But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God.”*

**Saul Anointed King** – Note how beautifully God prepares Saul for his becoming king! Baptized by the Holy Spirit.

*1Sa 10:1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head (Confirmation #1), and kissed him and said: “Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?”*

- Here is a private anointing, confirming Samuel’s words. The anointing of Saul with oil was a symbolic gesture because God had anointed him to be the captain over Israel. The anointing was not really accomplished, but was confirmed by Samuel’s pouring the oil on him. The anointing had come by God earlier.
- It is like baptism, which is something that God does in a person’s heart. The new life is that of the “reckoning of the old man to be dead.” The new life that we have now is the resurrected life in Christ, of which the outward baptism is just the symbol acknowledging what God has done. Baptism itself does not save, not the washing away of the filth of the flesh. It is a work that God has done within the conscience of a man. The outward is just a representative symbol.

*1Sa 10:2 When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel’s tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, ‘The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, “What shall I do about my son?”’*

- We are told that Rachel was buried near Bethlehem. (Jer 31:15) Thus says the LORD: “A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more.” Rachel’s sepulcher here is referred to as, “in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah.”
- These two men are going to tell you that the donkeys have been found and that your dad is worried about you. Here Samuel is laying out the date for him. “When you leave here, when you get near Rachel’s tomb; there are going to be a couple of men telling you that the donkeys have gone home: and your father’s been worried about you.” He has quit worrying about the donkeys, and now is worrying about Saul.

*1Sa 10:3-5 Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying*

*three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. [4] And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hands. (Here is confirmation #2.) [5] After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city (probably Gibeah, Saul's home town), that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying.*

- **Prophesying** - These prophets would go around in a group, singing praises unto God. These were the educated men, in those days. They did not have a public education system. The normal person was pretty much an uneducated person. Saul was probably illiterate. These men in the schools of the prophets were the only schools in those days. They would join together singing praises unto God, accompanied by these various instruments.

***1Sa 10:6 Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.*** (Here is confirmation #3.)

- So, there is promise of a new life when God's Spirit comes upon you: "you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man."
- Here is one of the greatest descriptions in all of the Bible of **the baptism with the Holy Spirit**, or the "**upon experience**" of the Holy Spirit! And **you will be turned into another man!** That is the power of the Holy Spirit in a person's life! The baptism of the Holy Spirit. The power to transform and change your life, and we all need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. **It is the power to live for Christ!**
- **Regarding Spiritual Wisdom; (1Co 2:9-10, 13-14)** But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." [10] But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. [13] These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. [14] But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- (Act 1:8) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- **Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit coming upon you? "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you! Pray for it! Ask for it! (Luk 11:13b) how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" What spiritual gifts do I see being present and practiced in my life?**

***1Sa 10:7 And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.***

- Here we see God taking a man who was big, good looking, from a good family, who appeared to be humble. Now God calls him to be the captain over His people. God continues to work in his life. "When the Spirit of God comes upon you, you will be turned into another man. God is with you." Can you imagine the potential of such a man? As you look at what he is and what God is doing, we really can get excited about the potential that is here!

***1Sa 10:8 You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do."***

- **Seven days you shall wait:** This was an important somewhat difficult command as kings do not wait for anybody, but others wait for them. But Samuel commanded Saul to wait for him, because as the prophet of God, he had more authority than this king over Israel. Saul had to show that even though he was a king he was submitted to the LORD and the LORD's prophet Samuel. Failing to **wait** for Samuel will get Saul into trouble on a future occasion. (1Sa 13:8) *Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.*

***1Sa 10:9 So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day.***

- **Whoever God calls to any service He will make enablement for him!** If he advances to another station, *He will give another heart*, to those who sincerely desire to serve Him with their power.

***1Sa 10:10 When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.***

- **God began to work. Saul's whole attitude and heart were changed.** He had joined in with their dancing and singing, yet he had not really learned their songs at the school of the prophets. David went to one of these schools, which is why he composed so many songs. As David would write these songs, he would tell them which instruments they should use to accompany many of the Psalms. It was just a whole idea of the singing of the Psalms that was greatly developed during the period of Samuel.
- **We do much the same in ministering to the LORD in song.** We worship Him in our singing accompanied by the guitars, drums, and percussion. So, it was a way of worshipping God.

*1Sa 10:11-12 And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" [12] Then a man from there answered and said, "But who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb: "Is Saul also among the prophets?"*

- They were shocked. He had shown no kind of inclination in this before, that God was so strong upon his life.

*1Sa 10:13-16 And when he had finished prophesying, he went to the high place. [14] Then Saul's uncle said to him and his servant, "Where did you go?" So he said, "To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they were nowhere to be found, we went to Samuel." [15] And Saul's uncle said, "Tell me, please, what Samuel said to you." [16] So Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, he did not tell him what Samuel had said.*

- But he did not tell him anything about God choosing him to be the captain. This is probably a part of his insecurity or possibly his humility in the beginning, rather than laying out the whole thing, telling all the exciting things.

**Saul Proclaimed King – Which was Saul's overwhelming characteristic? His humility or his insecurity?**

*1Sa 10:17-19 Then Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah, [18] and said to the children of Israel, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all kingdoms and from those who oppressed you.' [19] But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, 'No, set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans."*

- Again Samuel is going to rebuke them for their demand of a king. It stunned and hurt Samuel. So again, he is going to preach to them a sermon, and rebuke them for their request.

*1Sa 10:20-22 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. [21] When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they sought him, he could not be found. [22] Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD answered, "There he is, hidden among the equipment."*

- They had identified Saul as the king, but he was nowhere to be found. We cannot find him. And the Lord answered and said there he is hidden among the equipment. He is trying to hide from the call of God upon his life. You cannot hide from God no matter where you hide! Some people who look at this in Saul view it as evidence of his humility. Perhaps they are right. I am not inclined toward that view because of what happens to Saul after this and how his life plays out.
- There is a very fine and real line between humility and insecurity. They are very different in that humility is born out of a concern for others. Humility is selfless at its core.
- Insecurity is born out of a self-consciousness out of a self-centeredness and a fear of failure. If I fail, what will people think of me? As we will see in the coming chapters, Saul was a leader who really allowed his insecurities to dominate his life and his decision making.
- This insecurity in the face of God's call upon our lives is not at all uncommon. But we must never allow our own sense of inadequacy. Or, our own self-consciousness, or our own insecurity to keep us from being obedient to what God calls us to do, not realizing that God will add to our lives what is necessary to be successful in that calling.
- **Is there any insecurity, some fear of failure that is dominating your heart here tonight, where God has clearly called you to do something in His name to step out in faith? And**

***it is not humility that keeps you from doing it. It is a self-dominating insecurity, an unwillingness to be thought of as a fool by your family and friends, to be obedient to the Lord. It is so important that we do not give in to it, but to obey the Lord. Not only for the good of others as God uses you, but for your own sake as well.***

- One of the reasons that God may have called Saul into the ministry, the way that He did as a king, is that He realized that Saul was so messed up, that it was going to take his being brought into this dependence upon God, being forced to grow in godly character in ways that you would never do it, if the ministry and the service to God did not force him to grow by the day.
- **But Saul's not going to be willing to let God to make those changes in his life.** He needed to be a king more than Israel needed him to be a king. You need to obey God's call upon your life more than God needs you for what He wants to do through your life. It is for your sake. It is for your development in growth in life. It all comes down to obedience. Saul was far more than just being humble here. Saul did not want to be obedient. We are going to see his insecurities are going to derail the whole thing of his being king! It was a serious flaw in his life, which became fatal.
- **An early flaw that he did not allow God to work that area over in his life** and to change it, making that into something else. May we never say, "God, I will obey you here. I will obey you there. But I will not allow you to change me in this one area!" Usually there it will be the thing that will destroy us. You will end up in heaven someday, but it will destroy our effectiveness and our Christian witness.

***1Sa 10:23-24 So they ran and brought him from there; and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. [24] And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people?" So all the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"***

- ***"Long live the king!"*** Literally, in the Hebrew, it means, "Let the king live."

***1Sa 10:25-26 Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. [26] And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant men went with him, whose hearts God had touched.***

- Again, notice all of the things that God is doing in preparing Saul for this ministry and mission. God surrounds him with a host of men whose hearts have been touched by God. That is one of the most exciting Scriptures in the Bible as far as potential is concerned!
- **When Jesus had touched the hearts of the disciples, they went out and turned the world upside down.** Oh, how we need to have our hearts touched by God! How glorious it is to gather together with people whose hearts have been touched by God, and are ready for whatever the LORD has planned! "Let's go for it, and turn our world upside down!" When you get together with these kinds of people, it is always a thrilling, exciting experience because anything can happen.
- ***Would you say that your heart has indeed been touched by God?***

***1Sa 10:27 But some rebels said, "How can this man save us?" So they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.***

- Saul, using great wisdom, rather than creating a schism, just *held his peace* and let them go, not making a big thing of it.

**Saul Defeats the Ammonites – God blesses Saul with an early victory for Israel over its enemies.**

***1Sa 11:1 Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you."***

- **Jabesh Gilead was on the other side of the Jordan river** in the area of the tribe of Gath. Ammon, the Ammonites, came from the area of the capital, which is Jordan today.
- **The Ammonites had been severely defeated by the Israelites** during the period of the Judges. (*Jdg 11:32-33b*) *So Jephthah advanced toward the people of Ammon to fight against them, and the LORD delivered them into his hands. [33b] Thus the people of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.*
- **But now, about a hundred years later, they are rising up in power again.** Nahash gathers together an army and comes against this Israelite city of Jabesh Gilead. The men there offered to surrender because they did not want to suffer. They realized that they were not able to meet and fight against the army of Nahash. Rather than to be wiped out, they offered to make a treaty.

*1Sa 11:2 And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, "On this condition I will make a covenant with you, that I may put out all your right eyes, and bring reproach on all Israel."*

- But Nahash, the Ammonite, perhaps remembering still the history of their defeat by Israel, he not only wanted to defeat them, but humiliate them as well!

*1Sa 11:3 Then the elders of Jabesh said to him, "Hold off for seven days, that we may send messengers to all the territory of Israel. And then, if there is no one to save us, we will come out to you."*

- After seven days, if there is no one to save us, we will let you put out our eyes, and serve you.

*1Sa 11:4 So the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and told the news in the hearing of the people. And all the people lifted up their voices and wept.*

- When they came to Gibeah with a message that they would make a treaty, but they had to put out their right eyes, the people began to wail. This was horrible! It was something that was repulsive!

*1Sa 11:5 Now there was Saul, coming behind the herd from the field; and Saul said, "What troubles the people, that they weep?" And they told him the words of the men of Jabesh.*

- Saul had been plowing out in the field with the yoke of oxen. He had been called, anointed, and proclaimed as king. Saul is not pushing himself into the position. He is willing to go out and do the normal, menial things of plowing in the field. When Saul came out of the field, and heard all of the people weeping, he said why the people were weeping. *They told him the words of the men of Jabesh.*

*1Sa 11:6 Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news, and his anger was greatly aroused.*

- Saul was the kind of man that could plow, and be satisfied to plow, until the call of God comes. Then he becomes a man that rises to the challenge: leading the armies of God against the enemy.
- **How often is my righteous anger greatly aroused by the Holy Spirit coming upon me? Am I clear that the reason for the anger must be those ungodly and blasphemous things against the Lord, and not against me?**

*1Sa 11:7-8 So he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle, so it shall be done to his oxen." And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent (as one man). [8] When he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.*

- So, Saul had a sizable army.

*1Sa 11:9-10 And they said to the messengers who came, "Thus you shall say to the men of Jabesh Gilead: 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have help.' " Then the messengers came and reported it to the men of Jabesh, and they were glad. [10] Therefore the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you may do with us whatever seems good to you."*

- They were stalling for one more day.

*1Sa 11:11 So it was, on the next day, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch, and killed Ammonites until the heat of the day. And it happened that those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.*

- Saul probably had a forced march. It was about twenty miles from Bezek to Jabesh Gilead. The next morning, he got them up early to come against the Ammonites, taking them by surprise. Most likely the battle lasted about five hours.

### The Kingdom Is Renewed

*1Sa 11:12 Then the people said to Samuel, "Who is he who said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death."*

- Saul is pretty much now established in the eyes of the people as the true leader. Now they are looking for these sons of Belial, who had said, "Who is Saul, that he should reign over us? Bring those rebels who earlier had been against Saul. We will kill them."

*1Sa 11:13 But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the LORD has accomplished salvation in Israel."*

- Saul again, shows good judgment here. He is cool, rather than creating a downer. Saul keeps them exhilarated. He has led them to victory and they have begun to recognize him as an obvious leader.



Rather than having a slaughter of their own people, bringing division, he says, "No, let them go. God has been with us, *for today the LORD has accomplished salvation in Israel!* He brought us victory!

***1Sa 11:14 Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there."***

- This is the Gilgal that was just inside of the border down near Jordan where the people first camped when they crossed the Jordan river. He brought the armies there to renew the kingdom.

***1Sa 11:15 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.***

- There was a great celebration as they received and accepted Saul as their king. Now is a time of sacrifice and great rejoicing.
- At this point, it appears that Saul is an excellent choice to be the king over Israel. We will notice he will dramatically change because of his insecurity to the point of failure and losing his kingship completely! What a great lesson for us!
- Lord, help us, help me to fully surrender all to You! "I surrender all!"

## SUMMARY

- ***A man whose life is committed to God is a man who is being led and guided by God. In light of this truth, how committed am I to Him? (1Sa 9:16)***
- ***Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit coming upon you? "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you! Pray for it! Ask for it! (Luk 11:13b) how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" What spiritual gifts do I see being present and practiced in my life? (1Sa 10:6)***
- ***Is there any insecurity, some fear of failure that is dominating your heart here tonight, where God has clearly called you to do something in His name to step out in faith? And it is not humility that keeps you from doing it. It is a self-dominating insecurity, an unwillingness to be thought of as a fool by your family and friends, to be obedient to the Lord. It is so important that we do not give in to it, but to obey the Lord. Not only for the good of others as God uses you, but for your own sake as well. (1Sa 10:22)***
- ***Would you say that your heart has indeed been touched by God? (1Sa 10:26)***
- ***How often is my righteous anger greatly aroused by the Holy Spirit coming upon me? Am I clear that the reason for the anger must be those ungodly and blasphemous things against the Lord, and not against me? (1Sa 11:6)***

***I SURRENDER ALL! - VanDeVenter; Weeden - Maranatha! Praise Band (2:33/2:36)***

*1. All to Jesus I surrender; all to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.*

*Refrain -I surrender all, I surrender all, all to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

*2. All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to Thee; fill me with Thy love and power; let Thy blessing fall on me. (Refrain)*

*3. All to Jesus I surrender; now I feel the sacred flame. O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory, to His name! (Refrain)*

## CLOSING PRAYER

**NEXT WEEK: Study 1 Samuel, Chapters 12-14!**