

Read Through The Bible

Week 22 – June 30-July 6, 2024

1 Samuel 21-31; 2 Samuel 1:1-5:5; John 18-21; Acts 1:1-22; Palms 68-69, Proverbs 13:11-14:4

Icebreaker

- What is the greatest sacrifice you have ever seen someone make?
- What is the greatest betrayal you have ever seen?
- Has anyone ever turned their back on you because of the crowd? How did you feel?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading this week?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

1st Samuel

1 Samuel 24:8-10 8 Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, “**My lord the king!**” And when Saul looked behind him, **David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage.** 9 And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men who say, ‘Behold, David seeks your harm’? 10 Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, ‘**I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD’s anointed.**’

David had just spared Saul’s life in the cave at Engedi. Why did David spare Saul’s life? Do we have the same respect for God’s decisions? Would we have spared Saul’s life? Do we have respect for those God has chosen to serve him?

1 Samuel 25:17 17 Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and **he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him.**”

The young man was speaking about Nabal who had just refused David’s request for supplies. Do you know anyone that could be described this way? How do people feel about that person? If a Christian acts in this manner, what does the world think? What Scripture would tell us not to act this way?

1 Samuel 28:16-19 16 And Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, **since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy?** 17 The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me, for **the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand** and given it to your neighbor, David. 18 **Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD** and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day. 19 Moreover, **the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me.** The LORD will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines.”

Throughout the Old Testament, we see the importance of obeying the Lord. IS this still important today? If we lived in Saul’s day, would we be like Saul or David? What would our reward or punishment be?

2nd Samuel

2 Samuel 1:1-12 1 After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. 2 And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage. 3 David said to him, “Where do you come from?” And he said to him, “I have escaped from the camp of Israel.” 4 And David said to him, “How did it go? Tell me.” And he answered, “**The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead.**”... 11 Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 12 And they mourned and wept

and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

David was distraught over the Lord's people being killed, especially Saul and Jonathan. How do we feel when evil happens to God's people? Are we concerned for God's people? Are we concerned for God's reputation? How do we react when God's name is blasphemed?

2 Samuel 2:1-4 *1 After this David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron." 2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 3 And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. 4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.*

David steadfastly inquired of the Lord what he should do. Do we try to learn God's will for our lives? Under what conditions? How often do we seek God's guidance for our lives?

2 Samuel 5:1-5 *1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. 2 In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'" 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.*

David is made king over Israel after Ish-bosheth is murdered. God's word is finally coming to pass. What does it mean for us that God's anointing of David has been fulfilled? It took many years for this anointing to be fulfilled. Does this still happen today? How patient are we at waiting for God to fulfill His promises?

John

John 18:11 *11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"*

Jesus said this to Peter at his arrest and after Peter had cut off the ear of Malchus. Jesus was indicating His desire to do the will of his Father. How willing are we to do the will of God? Would we be willing to die for others if we knew it was God's will? What does Jesus' willingness to do God's will mean for us?

John 18:35-38 *35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." 37 Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." 38 Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"*

Perhaps one of the most important questions men can ask? How should we answer this question? (see John 14:6) What does this mean to us?

John 19:26-27 *26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*

What does this tell us about our mothers? How do we treat our mothers? Do we honor our parents?

John 19:30 *30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

What was finished? What does this mean for us?

John 20:19-21 *19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews,³ Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw*

the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. **As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.**”

Jesus gave them His peace. What would this mean for them? How important was this for His disciples? How would this help them during the next days and years? How does it help us?

Jesus also gave them a charge. What would this mean for the disciples in the future? How well did they fulfill this charge? What effect would this have on the world? How well have we fulfilled this charge?

John 20:28-29 28 Thomas answered him, “**My Lord and my God!**” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**”

Have we made the change in our life that John made? Have we allowed God to be our Lord? What does it mean to allow God to be Lord of our life? Are we part of the blessed, i.e. those who have not seen and yet believed?

John 20:30 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 **but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

Have you believed? Do you have life in His name?

Acts

Acts 1:6-11 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? **This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**”

“You will be my witnesses.” How well did they fulfill this charge? How long did it take them? What effect did it have on the world? Are we His witnesses today?

“Will come in the same way” What does this assurance mean for us? Are we ready for that coming?

Acts 1:13-14 13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. 14 **All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.**

How devoted to prayer are we? What can prayer do for us? Should we be a people devoted to prayer as the early disciples were?

Psalms

Psalms 68:32-35 32 **O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord,** — Selah 33 to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. 34 **Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.** 35 **Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!**

Have you praised God today? Have you sung praise to Him? Have you ascribed power to Him or do you believe it is your strength by which you live?

Psalms 69:5 5 O God, you know my folly; **the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.**

How often do we realize God sees our wrongs? What should this mean for us?

Psalms 69:16-18 16 Answer me, O LORD, for **your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.** 17 **Hide not your face from your servant; for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.** 18 Draw near to my soul, **redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!**

How steadfast is God's love for us? Have you asked God to not hide from you? Have you ever felt He is hiding from you? How often has we asked God to make haste to answer us? Are we willing to wait on God's answer or do we want an answer 'right now'? How badly do we need God to redeem us? Has He done so? Have we taken advantage of that redemption?

Proverbs

Proverb 13:30 20 *Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*
Who are you walking with? Who is your companion?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- Write a song of Praise to God.
- Make a list of your friends, your regular associates. Are they helpers or hinderers?
- Evaluate your witness for God to the world.

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