

Read Through The Bible

Week 21 – June 23-29, 2024

1 Samuel 8-20; John 12:1-17:26; Palms 65-68, Proverbs 13:1-9

Icebreaker

- Have you ever had a best friend you would do anything for? Give an example.
- Give an example of blaming someone else for your actions?

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

1 Samuel

1 Samuel 8:7-9, 19-20 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but **they have rejected me from being king over them**....9 Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.” [Samuel warns the people what a king will do to them.] 19 **But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel.** And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us, 20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

“That we also may be like all the nations” Do we feel like this? Do we want to be like everybody else? Do we want our own way rather than God’s way? Do we ever feel like Samuel when we are rejected? How do we act? When should our feelings trump God’s word?

Samuel 9:20-21 20 As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? **Is it not for you and for all your father's house?**” 21 Saul answered, “Am I not a Benjaminite, **from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?**”

Do we feel like Saul, not capable of doing what God has chosen for us to do? How should we feel? What do you think about the saying “God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called.” Do we refuse to do what God has called us to do because we don’t feel capable? What has God called you to do?

1 Samuel 12:13-15 14 If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and **if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well.** 15 **But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king.**

How often has this thought been repeated in Scripture? Where are you in your obedience? How will God show us favor today? If we always obey will no bad thing ever happen to us? Will things always be good for us?

1 Samuel 12:20-21 20 And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but **serve the LORD with all your heart.** 21 **And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty.**

What empty things are we tempted to turn to today? Power, sex, money, fame? Why do we want to turn to these things? What can help keep us from turning to these things?

1 Samuel 13: 8-14 8 He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. 9 So **Saul said, “Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings.” And he offered the burnt offering.** 10 As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. 11 **Samuel said, “What have you done?”**

And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, ... I have not sought the favor of the LORD." So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering. 13 *And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue..."*
What is the most important words in Saul's answer to Samuel? How often does this word get us in trouble? Why do we think we know more than God? How can we keep this little word from getting us in trouble with God?

1 Samuel 14:6 6 *Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few."*
How can we learn this lesson adequately for it to guide us in our live?

1 Samuel 15:18-23 18 *And the LORD sent you on a mission and said, 'Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'* 19 *Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?"* 20 *And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the LORD. I have gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. 21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."* 22 *And Samuel said, "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. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king."*
Who did Saul blame for his disobedience? How often do we want to blame our sin on others? How can we learn to take charge of our own actions? What principle about God did Samuel reveal to Saul? This principle is repeated many times throughout the Scripture. What will it take for us to learn it?

1 Samuel 16:7 7 *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."*
How important is it for us to realize that God looks on our heart? How should this affect our thoughts and actions? Do we keep this realization constantly in our minds and act accordingly?

1 Samuel 17:37, 45-47 *And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."* *And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!" ...45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."*
Will the Lord be with us when we act for Him? What situation can you think of when the Lord was with you? What situations do you see in your life today where you need God to be with you? How can we inculcate this truth into our life such that it guides our actions?

John

John 12:12-15 12 *The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" 14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat*

on it, just as it is written, 15 *“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!”*

Hosanna means “Save us.” It is also used as a term of adoration and praise. Do we ask God to Save us today? Many today do not believe Jesus was God’s son. The Jews here recognized Jesus came from God. Do we believe Jesus was the Son of God come to save us? Do we act as if we believe that? How would one act who truly believed that?

John 12:27-28 27 *“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.* 28 *Father, glorify your name.*

John 13:21 21 *After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”*

Jesus was troubled. Why? Yet He realized His purpose for coming was about to be realized. What is our purpose? Do we understand it? Are we fulfilling our purpose?

John 13:5-9 5 *Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.* 6 *He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?”* 7 *Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”* 8 *Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.”* *Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.”* 9 *Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”*

Do we refuse to let Jesus clean us? Do we have the same result today? How can we accept God’s cleansing?

John 13:34-35 34 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* 35 *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

What was new about this command? How did this change from the old command? What does it mean to Love as Christ loved? Do people know that we are disciples of Christ? How can they tell?

John 14:6 6 *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

How popular today is the idea that we can only be saved through Jesus? How is opposition to this idea expressed today? Do we ever speak back against this idea? How important is it for the world to understand this concept?

John 14:16-17 16 *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

Do we have this Helper? Who is it? How do we get this Helper in our lives? Where can He be found? Are we taking full advantage of this Helper?

John 14:21-24 21 *Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”* 22 *Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”* 23 *Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.* 24 *Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.*

Who loves God? God promised to be with those who love Him? How did Jesus say He would recognize those who love Him? How important is it to love God?

John 14:27, 33 27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

33 *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*”

What is the difference between God’s peace and the peace of the world? Do you have peace? Why not? How can we accept the peace God gives?

John 15:1-6 *1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned*

What is the source of our fruit? What happens if we do not bear fruit? What fruit are we to bear? IF we do not abide in Him, what happens? Are you abiding on Him? Are you bearing fruit?

John 17:3 *3And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

What is eternal life? Do you know God and His Son?

John 17:20-21 *20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

How does God want us to relate to each other? What purpose does this have? How does our relationships with each other affect the world?

Psalms

Psalm 62:2 *2 O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.*

DO we believe God hears our prayer? Do we believe God answers prayer? How long has it been since you came to Him in prayer?

Psalm 66:3, 5 *3 Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you....5 Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.* How long has it been since you praised God for His awesome deeds?

Psalm 67:1 *1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us*

O how we need God’s graciousness! How has God been gracious to you?

Proverbs

Proverb 13:3 *3 Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*

How are we doing at guarding our mouth?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- Evaluate your heart for obedience to God. Choose one area of disobedience and make a plan to improve.
- Make a list of God’s graciousness in your life. Thank Him for that graciousness!
- Try to feel God’s peace in your life this week. Settle in His love and promises and block out the world.

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