

All right, well today is going to be a fun day sermon wise. We are kicking off a brand new series. We have a title that I thought was pretty good. We're going to be talking about some of the that's exciting. They are going to be talking about some of the lesser known figures in Scripture, some of the ones that are very, very human. They are not necessarily the ones they look you look to as the heroes. And so here's the title we came up with as a staff. Old Testament second string, they didn't start, but they showed up. That's weird. Yeah, credit actually goes to Rob Pink for that one and a I was assisting him the whole time, but he put some stuff in. I was like, I was way better in the title. I was going to come up with. Old Testament second string, they didn't start, but they showed up. Alright, let me ask you a question. How many of you have read or watched a biography of somebody's life? Raise your hand. Good. I hope every hand

goes up. If not, today is a great day to start. Now, you don't have to shout out your answers, but just think them to yourself. Why is that so interesting? Why is that a good practice to engage in? And the answer, of course, is #1. It is very interesting, but #2 you learn a lot. I mean, you can learn a ton from somebody else's life. It's like you get to watch all their strengths, all their weaknesses, their successes, their failures, the outcomes of their decisions. And of course, when you watch that, it helps you tremendously in your own life. In fact, Otto von Bismarck, who was the German Chancellor during the 19th century, he put it this way. He said only a fool learns from his own mistakes. The wise man learns from the mistakes of others. Only a fool has to. We could say it this way, learn everything the hard way. You don't have to experience it to learn something. The wise man learns from the mistakes of

others. Now, as I was thinking about it this week, I realized you could just as easily flip that around and put it this way, only a fool learns from his own successes, a wise man. Learns from the successes of others. You don't want just your own success or failures to be the ones teaching you otherwise. You're gonna have to learn everything the hard way. Instead, you want to look at the lives of others. But here's what I found in Scripture. The Bible is a book. A lot of it. Of course you have the New Testament epistles, but. The Old Testament especially has a ton of stories, not fictional stories, but biographies, stories of what happened in history. But I found as a pastor that oftentimes the same people get talked about over and over and over again. Nothing wrong with that. I mean, that makes sense. You kind of hit the big ones. You got Abraham. Isaac tends to get skipped over, but Jacob is a big one. Joseph, of course.

There's a ton of sermon series out there on Joseph. Same thing in the New Testament. You tend to look at the main lives. Jesus, which there's definitely nothing wrong with that, but we focus on him. We learned from him. He's the only perfect human being. But then you step back, especially in the Old Testament and realize. Man, there's a lot of people in this set of books and many of them don't get talked about very much. And that's a shame because you find again and again these are people chosen by God. They are very flawed and don't worry, they're in the good company of every single human being who has ever existed except Jesus Christ. They're all flawed and you get to see how God uses them and the different decisions and how they came out. So today we're going to start a series. We're going to go through the lives of some of these people. I want to start with King Saul. I've wanted to teach on Saul for a very long time. Now some of you might be

hear me say that and think why. You know, Saul's story is actually a pretty sad story. It's a story of a man who was chosen by God, and he really was chosen. Like he did not try to become king at all. Samuel came and found him and then went by lots he was appointed to in the presence of the people. He literally went and hid. He's like, I don't want this job, and yet God. The job is yours and you get to watch this character arc where Saul starts off and as his power increases, he kind of reaches his apex where his external power outpaces his internal character. His external power begins to exceed his internal character, and then you watch him go down the other side. As he slowly descends into madness and eventually dies of violent death. And yet God loves Saul, and Samuel loves Saul, and David loves Saul. Saul is human. He's a human being just like the rest of

us, and there's a reason that the Bible is written and communicated through the lives of other human beings, because that is something we can understand. The difference with Saul and the rest of us is that his life was so amplified, and his life was amplified because of the position of incredible power. An influence that he held, which he was king, he was the first king of Israel. And yet you find out in his life story he was still very, very human. Alright, so we're gonna go ahead and we're going to get into that today. Now, here's how I'm going to teach this. The story of Saul starts in First Samuel 9. It goes. All the way through the end of the book, which is chapter 31. Don't worry my friends, we are not going to go through this verse by verse because next year we would still be looking at the life of Saul. Also, the life and Saul is intertwined with the rise of David to power. So a lot of it has to do with

David. And then also, and I would encourage you all to do this. We don't need to go through every single part because you can. And should be reading it. It doesn't actually take that long.

Jump in there as we're going through this series and read it for yourself, see how Saul interacts with David. What we're going to do is we're going to go through chunks of it and we're really going to hit the highlights of the highlights, the big parts, like any good biography has of Saul's life. Now, my goal today. Is just to set the stage. If I don't set the stage, then we're going to have problems throughout the rest of the series. So what I'm going to do is I'm going to start with this. We're actually going to look at first Samuel 8, the chapter leading up to Saul being chosen as king. But I'm going to back up just a little bit and I'm going to set the stage for the story of Israel up into this point. But instead of telling the whole story,

we need to back up even just a tiny bit more and understand the story of scripture that's being told, which then helps you understand the story of Israel, which then helps you understand Samuel, which gets you right to where you need to be. And we're going to do this all in like 5 minutes, so sit tight.

Think back with me for a minute. I went through this a few weeks ago. Go back to Genesis. And if we're going to understand Israel, you have to understand God's purpose for humanity. We have to start there. So think back with me for a minute. God creates the heavens, the earth, and everything in them. He creates living beings, plants, animals, life. And then as you come to the 6th day, God creates. The crown of his creation, which is human beings, Adam and Eve, and then of course, all of us who are going to come from their line. And God, when he creates, He does something special with human beings. He imprints

part of His image onto them. Now, this is not too hard to understand. My parents are sitting right over there. Because they are my biological parents, I am in a very real way made in their image, just as my children are made in my image. God imprints part of himself onto human beings and the way we. I think my dad just said, you're welcome. If I could see it from here.

Thank you very much for that.

Him and I were on the phone yesterday and I was joking that I was like, all my problems are because of your personality traits. That's the real issue. So I passed them on to you. And he took blame for it, which is nice of him. But God makes human beings in his image. And I think the best way to understand that is this. We are different from the animals. Yes, let's all say yes, all right, good, we are. Different from the animals? I sure hope so. What's different about us? Well, we have the ability for complex

thought. We have the ability to think about our own thoughts. We have an ongoing train of thought going on in our mind. We have the ability to take things that we see in our minds, just imagine them, and then use the capacity that God has given us to bring them. Into existence, to build, to create. And God has given us these incredible bodies with opposable thumbs and 10 fingers so we can grasp what we can move. Why did God do that? Because in a very real way, he's saying Adam and Eve, and thus humanity who will follow your job is to do what I do. What does God do as the most intelligent? That's not even the right word to you. Just the almighty sovereign God of the universe. He creates. And he says to Adam and Eve, I want you to create. I want you to. Build. I want you to fill the earth with life, and I want you to make it a place where life thrives. In other words, he says, I want you to be an extension of

my ruling authority in my Kingdom. This is not our world. It's God's world. So he gives Adam and Eve a job. Then you keep reading in Scripture and you find out that. Adam and Eve are not the only intelligent beings that were created.

There are also angels. And at some point, nobody knows exactly when, but at some point things went South in heaven. They had a, they had a real bad business meeting. Things went S that didn't go well. What are the angels said

Hey, one of the most powerful angels, the morning star Lucifer, who had incredible power and beauty in a big position in heaven. He said, you know what, I don't want to serve God anymore. I want to be God. Bunch of angels followed him and they were all cast out of heaven. And then here's what happens next. Don't miss it, Lucifer. Satan gets cast out of heaven and he comes down to Earth with one intention, and his intention is this. He's like, I want to take earth, God's

good Kingdom, and I want to make it mine.

If I can't have heaven, I'll take

earth. Now how does he do it?

He comes down to impressionable human

beings and he doesn't argue with them. He

doesn't try to logic them into changing

their minds. What does he do? He just

implants a lie into their mind and he

lets it run its course. He basically says

God's holding out on you, you can't trust

him. He doesn't love you as much as

you think. He loves you. You should do

what I did. Use all the gifts he's given

you to take back power for yourself, to

throw off God's yoke the shackles of

God's control. Note the language.

Shackles of control versus a God who

loves you and protects you. And then you

should use it to build your own kingdoms.

But here's the lie beneath the line. This

is where most people still don't

understand. When Adam and Eve, and

therefore everyone who followed, believe

that lie, Here's what they missed. Satan

is a liar. There's a lie within the  
lie, and it's this. They were never  
building their own kingdoms. Ever. All  
they were doing was building. His.  
Satan enslaves through lives to achieve  
his own purpose. If he can't have heaven,  
he'll take earth and so enslave through  
his lies. Human beings, unbeknownst to  
them, aren't building their own kingdoms.  
All they're doing is building his. And as  
you go into the Old Testament and the  
story progresses, you begin to see both  
through practice. And through Scripture  
itself, that the nations of the world  
303  
00:11:47,797 --> 00:11:49,1000  
belong to Satan. They are his Kingdom,  
304  
00:11:49,1000 --> 00:11:52,203  
you see in practice, because they take  
what they want by violence, by force, by  
asserting their will on others. And you  
might hear me say that go well, didn't  
Israel do that when they came and took  
the land? But then you also see in  
practice. But once they have their set of  
land, what do they do? They use, they

abuse, they take others, and they subject them to their own will so that they can continue to grow their own power. And the difference between the Old Testament law and like the law of Hammurabi, for example, of many of the other ancient laws is the Old Testament law was so different and that it protected the innocent. It promoted human dignity. It took care of the weakest people, whereas the other law systems were just to build mine, mine, mine. And if you're weak, too bad for you. The whole story is being set up like this. 2 kingdoms and only two God's Kingdom, Satan's Kingdom. And who do the nations of the world belong to? Satan's Kingdom. Probably the best place to see that is Psalm 2. It just starts off why do the nations rage and the people's plot in vain? And now I'm paraphrasing. They basically take their stance against God and say let us throw off his shackles. God's

Kingdom, Satan's Kingdom, Satan can't have Kevin. Who have earth. And who do the nations belong to and enslaved to? Satan through his lies. They belong to Satan and they're just building his power. OK, this then helps you understand the purpose of the nation of Israel. And I would encourage you all if you're going to read anything in the Old Testament, you have to start by understanding the reason that Israel exists. And here's the reason. Think about the story. There are the nations of the world, and God comes in and he pulls one man. Abraham and his family out of the nations of the world, and he says go and I'm going to make you a great nation and I'm going to set you apart from the other nations of the world. Israel was called to give you a few verses here. Treasured possession among all the peoples. Of all the nations that belong to Satan, there was one special

people that God says this people is mine.

That's Exodus 19, five. They were called  
a Kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

Leviticus 20:26. Separated from the  
peoples a great nation in praise and in  
fame and in honor high above all nations.

Deuteronomy 26. First Samuel 12/22 He  
calls them a people for himself.

Now do you see the picture being set  
up? Of all the nations

that belong to Satan, there's one special  
people group, and that's the nation of  
Israel that God calls out and says  
you belong to me. Now

I want you to grab your Bibles for just a  
minute. One more thing I want  
to say about the nation of Israel. They  
also had one more purpose. Don't miss  
this. They weren't meant to stay  
isolated. Go through Isaiah, What does it  
say again and again? They are meant to be  
a light. Their purpose as a special set  
apart people was to invite others back in  
and through that law based covenant

relationship with God, show them how citizens of God's Kingdom live. They were meant to invite people in. Not keep them out. Now let's see what happens. Go ahead and grab your Bibles and go to First Samuel 8. First

Samuel, wait, let me get there myself. And that background is going to help us understand why things go down the way they are about to go down. First Samuel 8.

OK, here's the background leading up to this and it's a simple way to understand this. Start with Moses. Moses delivers the people. That's Exodus. Then you come to the book of Joshua and Joshua conquers. Joshua gets the land then. Israel strays. And then all throughout the book of Judges, God rages, raises up these judges to restore and lead. That's a simple way to understand what's happened so far. Moses delivers, Joshua conquers. Israel strays. Israel is punished because other nations start taking them over. Then God raises up

judges. To restore and lead. And right now in the history of the nation of Israel, Samuel is the prophet and he is the judge and the leader of Israel, alright, and he is a righteous judge, but there is a problem. There's a big problem. Look at the very first part of the book with me, when Samuel became old, chapter 8, verse one. He made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his first born son was Joel and the name of his second Abijah. They were judges and Bersheba. Yet here's the problem. His sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice in other words. They were judges, but they were corrupt. Now for those of you who have read this book, this should sound eerily familiar because what happens just a little bit earlier, like in the preceding chapters, Israel gets defeated by the Philistines. And a big reason they got defeated is because Eli the priest had

two sons, Hophni and Phineas. And they both were corrupt, they were evil. And as part of punishment for that, they were killed in one of the battles. Now, when you look at the nation of Israel, there's always three offices that God uses to guide the country. And where these three offices go, the rest of the nation goes. There's prophets, there's priests, and there's kings. Well, starting now, they're about to get their first king. They don't have 1 yet. But from then on out, there's prophets, there's priests and there's kings. And even before we get to the king, because Saul is the very first one, you begin to understand there are big problems in the spiritual state of the nation. How do we know? That because the prophets sons are corrupt and the priests sons are corrupt and we're waiting to see what's going to happen with the king. There's something to learn from that before we keep going in the book. And it's this church you

better invest in the next generation.

The future lies with them.

The spiritual fervency.

Of the people lies with the next

generation. And

if you're looking at Samuel and you're

looking at Eli the prophet, the priest,

at that point, the two major barometers

of the spiritual state of Israel and

all their sons are corrupt, it speaks

to a much deeper problem.

And that problem is about to come out as

we continue to read in the chapter. So

let's take a look. Alright, we're still

in chapter 8. Let's look at verse 4. Then

all the elders of Israel gathered

together and they came to Samuel Rama,

and they said to him, you guys think I'm

direct? Behold, you're old.

He's like, yeah, I know, behold, you are

old and your sons do not walk in your

ways. Now the people may know, I may not

know the Lord too well, but they do know

if, hey, the country is being run by two

corrupt judges, we are all in big trouble. We cannot have this. So they come to Samuel and they say, look, man, look, Sir, whatever they called him, prophet. Samuel, here's the problem. You're going to die and your sons don't walk in your ways. Now a point for us, a king to judge us. Don't miss this next part. Like all the nations. A point for us, a king to judge us. You could put it this way so that we can just be like the nations around us. Keep reading. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed to the Lord. 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, according to all the deeds that they have. One, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods. So they also are doing to you.

Now then obey their voice, and only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them. OK, at first glance it's a little hard to understand what's going on because they come in and they say give us a king and then Samuel gets very ticked and then God gets ticked, but he ultimately says just give him what they want. Now if you give it a once over, it's easy to come to the conclusion, I guess there is something wrong with him asking for a king. But if I went took a look and I had my own questions about this. So I went and dug into a lot of different commentaries. And I don't think that's the best way to understand it because the entire book of Joshua and then the book of Judges, it foreshadows a king eventually coming. And then also when you when you look at all the prophecies of Christ, he always comes from the line of. The kings from the line of David. So if those prophecies are

going to be fulfilled, there's got to be  
a king. So what is  
the real problem? Why is Samuel ticked?  
Why is God like, yeah they've rejected  
me, but give them what they want?  
Look again at verse 9.  
Excuse me, verse 5. Now  
appoint for us a king  
to judge us, like all  
the nations. What's  
Israel's purpose? To  
be set apart from the nations.  
To not be like the other  
nations. Then you get to verse  
excuse me 20 and they say same chapter  
chapter 8 verse 20 that we also may  
be like all the nations, that our king  
may judge us and go out before us  
and fight our battles.  
Now, we're not covering this today  
because you can only cover so much in  
one sermon, but after this sermon, go  
back and I want you to read chapter  
chapter 6. Read chapter 6.

Yeah, Nope. I'm sorry. Chapter 7, I knew was wrong with that. Read Chapter 7 the very the chapter right before and here's what happens in that chapter that people want to return to the Lord. Samuel says OK, put away your idols and worship the Lord and they agreed to do it. The Philistines come together to attack because they think they're gathering for battle. And the Lord delivers them. He miraculously delivers them from the Philistines. And then one chapter later they're coming to Samuel and they're saying, make us like all the other nations, that our king may judge us and go out and fight our battles.

He's like, God just did.

He just did.

It's not that the problem is they're asking for a king. The problem is that, listen, the problem is their trust isn't really in God. And the more I thought about this and looked into it, the more apparent it became. Who's their trust

really in at this point?

Samuel.

That's who they really trust.

Now they don't know all the private conversations that Samuel has with God.

Samuel doesn't make decisions on his own.

They talk to Samuel. Samuel talks to God.

Samuel tells him what God says. But who's

their trust? And at this point, their

trust is really not in God himself. It's

in the prophet. God's set up to judge and

lead, and he's done it. Remarkable. On

top of it, he's a great judge and a

terrible father. It's weird how that

works. It's very similar with David.

Great king, not a great spiritual father

to his own children.

Their trust at this point really isn't in

God, who has won their battles, who has

always taken care of them. And maybe God

would have given them a king anyways

without them asking. But they say,

listen, we have got to take matters into

our own hands. We have got to try to

control this situation, and we've got to  
make it go according to how we think it  
ought to go. Which is we need to be like  
the other nations, have a king, have God  
fighter, have the king fighter battles  
for us. What Israel's struggling  
with in this in between is they know  
Samuel's gonna die. And then they're left  
with a bunch of ambiguity of like, what's  
gonna happen next? Who's gonna lead us?  
How is God going to provide? Who's going  
to step up? Because we all know his sons  
aren't any good. So what are we going to  
do? And rather than just sitting back  
and saying, look, God is our king, He's  
always taken care of us. He just won our  
battles just one chapter ago. They  
say, you know what, this is our situation  
to control you do Samuel. We tell you  
to do or at least ask God give  
us a king so that we can look  
just like everybody else. To  
which God would say your entire purpose  
is rule. Is to not be

like everybody else. Because everyone else belongs to another Kingdom, you belong to me. Yours's job is to reflect me, and through that light, invite others in.

OK, let's keep going. What does Samuel do? He warns them, and I love this because again, the Bible is so wonderful because it's filled with human beings and you see human nature just flying left and right. He warns them first Samuel 8 starting in verse 10. So Samuel told them the words of the Lord. By the people, to the people who are asking a king from him, he said he's like, alright, here's what's gonna happen. These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you. He will take your sons and appoint them to his Chariots. He's going to draft your sons and he's going to send them to war and to be his horsemen and run before his Chariots. He's going to appoint commanders of thousands and commanders. The 50s and some the plow his ground and

to reap his harvest and to make him  
implements of war and the equipment of  
his Chariots. He's going to take your  
families and he's going to make them do  
what he wants them to do to further his  
Kingdom. He will take your daughters  
to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.  
He'll take the best of your fields and  
vineyards. He is gonna tax you and tax  
you and tax you. How many of you  
have seen the old Robin Hood movie? Yeah,  
taxes, taxes, taxes. I love that line  
because I tax my children. And I have  
a whole money laundering scheme going on  
at my house. And it's brilliant. I give  
them an allowance. I've decided to stop  
arguing with them. I just say here's how  
it's gonna roll. You're gonna do this or  
you're gonna pay me X amount of money.  
And I get paid regularly. And one of my  
favorite things when I get the money is  
go taxes, taxes, taxes. So if you need  
someone with cash, I have some because. I  
put it through, I launder it, it comes

out clean the other side and I just go  
back and spend the money I gave him in  
the 1st place. But they're gonna get wise  
one of these days. They're gonna start  
listening. And I found seven tubes, 7  
tubes of half used toothpaste. And I said  
this will not do. This is ridiculous.  
Somebody pays for this toothpaste and  
there are 7 and half. Used tubes in  
various locations in this bathroom. And  
then I thought to myself, don't get mad,  
just tax them. Tax them. So they're gonna  
pay Me 2 bucks a tube because that got  
toothpaste. Cost money. Alright, I'm off  
track. We're going to get back into this.  
That's what the King's going to do, but  
on a greater level. One day I'll  
be old. I'll be like, will you take care  
of me? And then they'll remember those  
taxes that happened, Alright, That's what  
he says is gonna do. They're he's gonna  
tax you. He's gonna attack you. He's  
gonna attack you. He's gonna take your  
land. He's gonna take a 10th of

everything you have. He's gonna do what he needs to do to run a country. And what do they say to him? Ohh, I'm sorry, verse 18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day. He tells them exactly what's going to happen. And then verse 19, what do they do? They're like, Nah, it's going to be fine. We want a king. I don't think any of that's going to happen. The people refuse to obey the voice of Sam and they said. So but there shall be a kings, we may be like all the other nations that are king may judge us and go out and fight our battles, even though God had just fought their battle for them 1 chapter earlier. Now I want you to note something #1 history of Israel. Did they regret their choice to have a king? Yes. In fact, there's only three kings. Later, it was Saul, David, Solomon who is the most well known powerful king of them all. And

then when Solomon dies, what do they do?

They went to his son and they said like,  
we're not paying all these taxes anymore.

And that's when the nation splits. Like,  
we are not putting up with this. Yeah,  
Solomon was rich. Guess where he got his  
wealth? Guess how he built his buildings  
off the backs of the people. That's how  
governments work. And so exactly what

Samuel says is gonna happen, happens. But  
the people in the moment, they're just  
like, that's human beings for you. Like,  
whatever, That's not gonna happen. It's  
gonna be fine. It's gonna be fine. And  
really what they're saying is, look,

Samuel. We don't want to deal with the  
ambiguity of what God is gonna do. Like  
we just don't want to deal with it. I  
don't wanna think about it. I don't wanna  
worry about it. What we want you to do is  
to step up, give us a king so I can just  
sleep better at night knowing what's  
going to happen next. And what does God  
do? He says.

OK.

Isn't that interesting? He

just says OK.

You know, friends at the end of our

lives. People always say why does God

send people to hell like he doesn't?

What does God give us at the end of our

lives? When we stand before him.

Exactly what we asked for.

For those who say I want nothing to do

with Jesus, I reject him, God says OK.

And for those who say Jesus is the Lord

of my life and I depend on him, he says

OK.

God does not force himself on us. He

can, but that's just not how He chooses

to operate. He says

if you don't want to trust me and you

want to take matters into your own hands,

Israel, and you want to control it and

demand to be like the other nations. Then

so be it. And he gives it to him.

And then, for those of you who have read

the rest of the Old Testament, you know

how it ends.

I'm gonna wrap this up on time. So we gotta get some stuff going on after this.

Let me let me just give our application.

There's so many applications that we could talk about.

And I gotta be careful because you can't just take what's going on in Israel and

stamp it on any other group and say this

is the same thing. But there are things

we can learn from human nature that

apply. These are just universal. Why?

Because human beings have not changed.

Culture has changed, technology has

changed, Humans haven't changed, not one

bit. You read through the Old Testament

and it's like we're still doing the same

thing for the same reasons, which is

usually ego and self preservation and all

that good stuff. Well, bad stuff. So

what's the application? I just

picked three, I could pick like 10, but

here's the ones I think we need to be at

#1 just have faith.

You can trust God to take

care of things.

I'll tack something else on there too.

You can have faith and trust God.

Even in the hardest times.

Which is usually in the midst of change

and ambiguity.

That's exactly what was going on in the

nation. It was a time of change.

The leader they knew and trusted, Samuel,

was passing away. It's

tough. Have faith,

trust God even in the midst of change and

ambiguity. And I know many of you in your

own personal lives are in that season.

Change, ambiguity, difficulty. Ambiguity

is like the hardest one. The worst part

is not knowing what's going to happen.

That's more agonizing than knowing what's

going to happen. Just trying to make your

peace with it. The hardest 1 is like, I

don't know what's going to happen.

And then lastly this and this was really

I think the sin that ticks Samuel and God

said, yeah, I know, but given what they  
want. You can trust God to take care  
of you.

He knows your needs and he knows what's  
going on in your life. And he  
knows what's going on in our church, and  
he knows what's going on and all the  
different things outside of these  
churches, this church. He knows what's  
going on in the other churches in this  
city, and he knows.

And what he's asking for, very much like  
we just sang about a few minutes ago, is  
that simple, childlike.

Decision. Ohh

yeah. I'm going to trust  
you. Even when I don't  
know what's gonna happen, tis so sweet to  
trust in Jesus and just to take him  
at his word.