

I Samuel 26-28 – 24 March 2022

“Seek Peace”

Introduction

- *David has been anointed king to replace Saul, but God hasn't dethroned Saul yet (about 15 years)
- *David is on the run from Saul thru Judea
- *We've talk about
 - *God using the hard time to grow our character
 - *Dealing w/ envy & anger flying around
 - *Being loyal to God and believers
- *Now before Saul death, David learns to seek peace
- *So much is said in the Scriptures about peace
 - *Everyone seeks it whether they have it or not
 - *Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God”
 - *Embodied in Jesus the Prince of Peace
- *Today we learn some lessons of seeking peace**

1st lesson for seeking peace: bring grace leading to repentance & let God do the judgement (Chap 26)

Read Vs 1-4

1. This's 2nd time Ziphites rat on David to Saul & Saul comes down after David w/ same 3000 men
2. What happened to the remorse Saul had after David spared his life the last time? – not real

Read Vs 5-8

1. “Feels so right, it can't be wrong”... but it's sin
2. This is 2nd time David has this chance
 - a. Doesn't mean he messed up last time
3. David could have copped out if he let Abishai do it....but he'd still be responsible
 - a. Notice, the very spear thrown at David could be used to kill Saul
4. Difference between Goliath & Saul?
 - a. Goliath was God's enemy who judgement God already declared
 - b. Saul was God's anointed king

Read Vs 9-12

1. Getting the rights 'ends' isn't the point, having the right 'means' in the point
 - a. It's about the journey not the destination
2. Why not kill him?
 - a. B/c God instituted Saul into his position
 - b. David trusts God to end Saul in His timing

Read Vs 13-16

1. David isn't wanting Abner put to death, he's only asking Abner to admit his sin
 - a. Can't gain repentance until someone first sees their sin
 - b. In fact, David later welcomes Abner in

Read Vs 17-20

1. David is seeking reconciliation
 - a. If there's cause, let's atone & come together
 - b. If no cause, then cursed be the dividers
2. David's great pain: he can't worship God properly at tabernacle & in fellowship w/ God's people

Read Vs 21

1. Saul has sorrow & admission, but is it repentance?
2. Notice Saul asks David to return in relationship

Read Vs 22-25

1. David indicates they each need to be showing their godliness & proving that they're trustworthy
2. John Baptist challenged the watching Pharisees
 - a. Read Matt 3:5-8 – Bring forth fruits...
3. Can't just jump back into deep fellowship

2nd lesson for seeking peace: find reconciliation, peace isn't found in avoidance (Chap 27:1-28:2)

Read Vs 1-4

1. Same Achish David played mad w/ in Chap 21
2. It's never the right move to rely on the enemies of God – bad outcomes await
3. Hiding or serving among the enemies of God
 - a. Won't bring you peace
 - b. Won't help the rebellious Sauls
 - c. Won't convert enemies

Read Vs 5-7

1. David asks to be a Philistine servant
2. You ever make a bad decision that last 1.5 yrs
b/c you're not honest or humble enough to fix it?
3. Hiding among Philistines is avoiding potential reconciliation between David and Saul

Read Vs 8-12

1. David raided non-Jews along the Southern Med coast & said he raided Israel to gain loyalty – lying
 - a. This is not peace but anxiety
2. President Ronald Reagan said, *“Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.”*
 - a. Lying isn't peaceful means
 - b. David's avoiding inevitable conflict with these haters of the Lord God

Read Chap 28:1-2

1. David's ambiguous answer happened b/c of where he's placed himself
2. This storyline resumes in chap 29

3rd lesson for seeking peace: prioritize peace w/ God over peace w/ man (Chap 28:3-25)

Intro

1. Now we see Saul concerned about the amassing Philistines and he needs advice
2. He's not turning his heart or daily life back to God – so where will he get advice?

Read Vs 3-6

1. When the Lord is silent ask if it's b/c there's sin in the house as at AI after Jericho
2. Notice there were those that had the supernatural ability to conjure up the dead
 - a. Bible never denies the power of Satan
 - b. Bible simply puts the emphasis on the overcoming power of God

Read Vs 7-8

1. When you have to hid your face, your motives are probably wrong
2. So concerned about conflict w/ men, Saul isn't concerned he making more conflict w/ God

Read Vs 9-10

1. Even she's hesitant to do this for Saul's law
2. Saul's willing to break Law even he once enforced

Read Vs 11-13

1. Woman was expecting a familiar demon and she got God allowing Samuel to come

Read Vs 14-16

1. As w/ God Himself, servants of God are concerned w/ rightness toward God, not primarily our situation
2. Without Saul getting right with God, none of this Philistine business really matters
3. What good is it to have great life & still go to hell?

Read Vs 17-19

1. He got his answer about circumstances AND the timing of his death b/c of his disobedience
2. God even gives the why in verse 18
 - a. The stain is still there
 - b. Repentance hasn't been sought

Read Vs 20-25 – Mourning & eating like a last meal of a man on death row

Conclusion

There are many situations in life that need peace brought into them. How do we get to peace?

- 1. Bring grace that leads to repentance, while letting God do the judging**
 - a. We have to be the ones to extend the olive branch by good works they don't deserve
- 2. Find reconciliation, peace isn't found in avoidance**
 - a. Hiding helps no one – a “live” situation has to be dealt with to douse the fire of conflict
- 3. Prioritize peace w/ God over peace w/ man**
 - a. CS Lewis said, “*God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, b/c it is not there. There is no such thing.*”
 - b. It's the love of God to seek your eternal good over your temporary earthly good