LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: 05.12.24 Pulpit Curriculum

The Account of Saul’s Life
2 Samuel 1:1-27

1st Samuel Review
1) Saul v. David: Samuel listened to God’s word, Saul’s cowardice and rebellion endured to the end, while David was faithful and obeyed – a man after God’s own heart.
2) Saul was a Half-Believer: A whole-hearted pursuit of being in Christ is what it means to be a Christ follower. A half believer is an unbeliever still. Saul was miserable for his half measures.
   A. How do you obey God? Are you consistent in your obedience or do you have some halfway commitments to the things of God? _____________________________

   B. Who can you share with in your Lifegroup the areas that you want to grow in obedience? What areas? ________________________________

3) Jesus Christ, Our Perfect King: The lesser lights in 1&2 Samuel point to the greater light – the better Jonathan, better Samuel, the better Abigail. The only way that we will come to eternal life is to repent & believe, acknowledging Christ as our King.
C. What comfort is there in acknowledging the lesser lights in 1&2 Samuel that point to Jesus Christ? ________________________________

D. In what ways is Jesus Christ more righteous than the lesser lights? _________

The Account of Saul’s Death (2 Sam 1:1-16)
1) The Messenger, not so shrewd: The messenger lied about the account of Saul’s death to win favor with King David and likely a reward. When we lie to get away with something, we build repercussions that will be exposed in judgement – all are exposed to Him who we must give account (Heb 4:13).
   E. What are some little white lies or sins that are culturally acceptable, but lead to destruction? ________________________________

2) David suffers no fools gladly: David knew that either the messenger killed the Lord’s anointed or was lying to the soon to be king to earn favor. Either way, David discerned his true motive and was just in his response.
3) Saul’s Horrible End: There were three beheadings in 1 Samuel (Dagon, Goliath, Saul). Saul’s horrible end in life led to a horrible end in death. Saul lived like the kings of the nations and died like one.

**Oh How the Mighty have Fallen 2 Sam 1:17-27** – This song is David’s song of lament, a pointed time of reflection and sadness over the death of the king and David’s friend Jonathan. Saul started well and looked talented. Talent without character is a crash and burn. We develop our character in Christ, a heart that fears and pursues Christ, mindful of the eternal riches. Saul wrongly trusted in himself.

1) **David’s Uprightness:** Trusting God and repenting of self-reliance puts trust in Christ’s resources and allows us to offer ourselves to others. David’s honor was vindicated because he knew that he was anointed by God to be King, but was faithful to honor Saul even in his horrible death. (See Acts 13:22)

G. Read 2 Pet 1:5ff, consider how to foster Christian character in your life. _______

2) **How to Remember the Dead:** Saul was flawed, but David was God honoring in how he remembered Saul. David pursued righteousness instead of sin in honoring Saul (Prov 14:34). Forgiveness begets freedom, vengeance begets bitterness. David was working from forgiveness (Col 3:13-15).

H. What relationships in your life are ripe for forgiveness? How can you pursue righteousness? ____________________________________________

3) **Jonathan and David:** The brotherly love between David and Jonathan was God honoring (1 Sam 18:1-20). The word here is Ahava (hapus), love of friends and family, which is God honoring and pure. The love here is not in sexual terms (to know intimately). David’s affections toward Jonathan exceeded the dimensions and kind of any relationship he had with a woman. A deep seeded sharing of one soul, similar to that of Paul and Timothy being one-souled. Jonathan was faithful and risked his life, sacrificing his own honor for that of David his friend.

I. What are some different dynamics of intimate Christian friendships of consequence and the relationship with our spouse? ________________________

J. How OTWATR (On The Wall, At The Ready) are you in commitment for others? What are some steps you can take forward in building soul quality friendships? ____________________________