

FIRST SAMUEL STUDY

CHAPTERS 31:1-13

TAPE NUMBER WN-357 JULY 16, 2003

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN WE FIGHT OUR OWN BATTLES”**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Disqualified, Failure, Witness, Influence, Vision

INTRODUCTION

to the text

1 Samuel 31:1-13

THE SCRIPTURE DECLARES...

Psalm 62:1-2 NIV

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. :2 He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE FIGHT OUR BATTLES ?

We fall into the Trip With Those who have little Faith in God

1 Samuel 8:4-7

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE FIGHT OUR BATTLES

1.) *The Lord leaves us to our own resources* vv.1-6

He leaves us to our own resources

1a.) *He will let us go in our own strength* vv. 1-2

Verse 1-2

Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on **Mount Gilboa**.² Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.

Verse 1a

Israel was Attacked!

Now the Philistines fought against Israel;

There is No Sign, No Word, No Leading from God here –
the silence is deafening!

There is no **Prophet** to Speaking, There is no **Ephod** Consulted,
There is no **Priest** of God to Point the Way...

Hosea 4:6a

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you...

He will let us go in our own strength

Verse 1b

and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines,
and fell slain on **Mount Gilboa**

Rising 1,696 ft. (Chino Hills State Park)
Mount Gilboa was Located in the Jezreel Valley
North and West of Jerusalem – it is beautiful!

A Void in Leadership Leads to Death...

All Because Saul would Never Make Time to be Alone with God,
He couldn't discern the will of God.

James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ *he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

This was the witness – the legacy that Saul had been leaving behind, - everywhere he went, for years...

A Man Unable to Trust in God

because he was a man unable to see clearly

(#1)

He never saw his purpose
(He lived for himself)

(#2)

He never could never see what God had for him
(He was never seen praying)

(#3)

He wouldn't trust god to be in the lives of others
(failed to see the use of others)

(#4)

He had to be in control rather than passing on the vision
(he wasn't one to delegate things out)

These Characteristics are Gotten by Being with the Lord

Through thick and **thin**, joy and **sorrow**, **poverty** and wealth

There is no character building
during the easy days of life

“Living is Easy - *when it’s Easy Living*”

Acts 14:21-22

And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²² **strengthening** the souls of the disciples, **exhorting** *them* to **continue** in the faith, and *saying*,
“We must through **many tribulations** enter the kingdom of God.”

Philippians 3:10

All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death,

He leaves us to our own resources

1b.) Our actions will betray our confessions

vv. 3-4

Verse 3-4

The battle became fierce **against Saul**. The archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by the archers. ⁴ Then Saul said to his armorbearer, “Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through and abuse me.” But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.

He leaves us to our own resources

Our actions will betray our confessions

We May Say

“I Thank God” or “I love the Lord” or “I am a Believer”
Yet the Reality of that Confession may not True.

“I Thank God”

when things go my way

“I love the Lord”

when I’m happy and content

"I am a Believer"
when life is good

"I Thank God" – because

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks;
(WHY) for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

"I love the Lord" – because

1 John 4:10

This is love: not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

"I am a Believer" – because

1 Peter 1:15-16

but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is
written, "*Be holy, for I am holy.*"

Saul - As King of Israel
was to be an Example of a Man under God. He was to be a Leader, who
was being led. He was to be the example to the Nation.

He leaves us to our own resources

1c.) Faith in God will not be translated

vv. 5-6

Verse 5-6

And when his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead,
He also fell on his sword, and died with him...:

The Place of the Armor bearer
Was a very trusted position.

He would have been on the
INSIDE TRACK

in conversations, events, plans – he would have heard it all

Apparently – The “Faith” Dynamic was Missing

When Faith in God is not Translated –
Disaster will breed Disaster

Exodus 20:5-6

you shall not bow down to idols nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, and I will visit the sins of the fathers upon their children to the third and fourth *generations* upon all those who hate Me, ⁶ but I will show mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

When Faith in God is not Translated –
Disaster will breed Disaster

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Application Point

WHAT am I translating to my **children**? WHAT am I translating to **you**?
WHAT am I translating to this **church**? WHAT am I translating to **unbelievers**?
WHAT am I translating to **family**? WHAT am I translating to the **world**?

Verse 6

...**So Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and all his men they all died together that same day.**

Why, Why, Why did this happen?...

Because it was **Saul’s World**, It was **Saul’s Kingdom**, It was **Saul’s Ministry**
And These Things Died with Him

It was Never of God – it was Human Devises

Your Ministry, Life, Home, Family –

If these things are under your control, then they are not under God's control!

Whenever we Build without God
We are building on sand

Whenever we Build without God
We are building on sand

Japan's International Airport

It was built at sea, on a man-made island, and it is been sinking at a rate of 1 foot a year since it's completion in 1995 – it has sunk over seven feet!

“We Thought the Ocean Floor was Firm Enough”

What “Sandy” Construction Looks Like...

It's Emotional / It's Bold / It's Powerful / It's Quick / It's Temporary

Matthew 7:24-28

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” ²⁸ And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

Jesus Used a Common Scenario

to communicate an eternal truth

Luke 14:28-31

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*— ²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.” ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE FIGHT OUR BATTLES

2.) *The World will be victorious every time* vv. 7-13

Even Our Faith

1 John 5:4-5

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

The World will be victorious every time

2a.) *When we are overcome with doubt* vv. 7-9

Verse 7

And when the men of Israel who were **on the other side** of the valley, and those who were **on the other side** of the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, **they forsook the cities and fled**; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them

The World will be victorious every time

2b.) *When we have lost our witness* vv. 8-10

Verse 8-10

So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. ⁹ And they cut off Saul's head and stripped off his armor, and sent *word* throughout the land of the Philistines, to proclaim *it in* the temple of their idols and among the people. ¹⁰ Then they put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and they fastened his body to the wall of **Beth Shan**.

**Your Life;
“That’s Gonna Leave a Mark”**

The World will be victorious every time

2c.) When we travel alone – without God

vv.11-13

Verse 11-13

Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹² all the valiant men arose and traveled all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth Shan; and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. ¹³ Then they took their bones and buried *them* under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

This is the Road to Perdition

And this is how it ends – a dead end!

If you head south from here on the 5 fwy.
You cross over into Mexico. If you keep going you drive down the longest peninsula in the world – Baja California, to the Sea of Cortez.

At the end there is a sign and that sign reads...
“Lands End”

If You Keep Going,
You're not only going to get wet, but you're also going to fall off the
North American Continent and Drown!!!

When we travel alone – without God
We are at a great risk / and in great danger of perishing!

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death

THE LAMENTATION OF DAVID

2 Samuel 1:17-27

Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son,¹⁸ and he told them to **teach the children of Judah the Song of the Bow**; indeed it is written in the Book of Jasher: ¹⁹ “The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! ²⁰ Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon— Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. ²¹ “O mountains of Gilboa, Let there be no dew nor rain upon you, Nor fields of offerings. For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil. ²² From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty. ²³ “Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions. ²⁴ “O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury; Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. ²⁵ “How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places. ²⁶ I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women. ²⁷ “How the mighty have fallen, And the weapons of war perished!”

Why so Sad, Because it Didn't have to Happen this way

End of study, End of Book