



1 SAMUEL 29-31

SUNDAY 18th JULY

REFLECTION

QUESTIONS AND NOTES

Try to tell the story of 1 Samuel.

- Do this once with bibles closed
- Tell the story again with bibles open
- What has God been teaching you through this book?
 - What have you learnt about God?
 - What have you learnt about yourself?

This week we looked at chapters 29-31. Depending on how much time you have, you might want to pick a particular chapter to focus on:

Read ch 29

- In v1-2 we see that David is at the rear of an army of Philistines marching toward Israel.
 - How did David end up here?
 - What options does David have?
- What reasons do the commanders give for why David should not join the battle?

- Are these legitimate concerns?
- What does Achish think of David? Why does he think this? What do we know about David's actions that show this trust is misplaced?
- Who is the only character to mention God in these verses?
- We aren't given a description of how God is at work in this passage. Does that mean God is not at work?
 - What is God doing in these verses?
 - Why is it important that David didn't enter the battle?
- What might God's sovereignty mean in our lives?
 - Does it mean we will be protected from all difficult situations?
 - If not, what does it mean for us?

Read ch 30:1-8

- What do David and his men find when they return to Ziklag?
 - What is their response?
 - In what different ways could David respond?
- How does David respond in v6-8?
 - From the text what can we learn of how to find strength in hard times?
- Read Eph 6:10-20
 - What do we learn about our battle?
 - What do we learn about how to be strong in the Lord?

Read ch 30:9-31

- Why do 200 of the men now join the fight?
 - Why is this significant later in the story? (v22)
 - Can you think of situations where we think that people don't deserve the gifts of life?
 - Why do the evil men think that those who stayed behind don't deserve the gifts?
 - Is this instructive in our mindset in life?
 - Why is David willing to be generous with the plunder?
 - How is this instructive in how we live?

Read ch 31

- How does the fall of Saul fulfill what God has spoken before in 1 Samuel?
- What did Saul not do in his last hours?
- How do the rest of Israel respond to the defeat of Saul and the army?
- How do the Philistines respond to Saul's defeat?
- Where is there any hope?