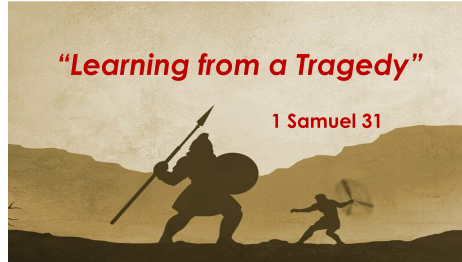


Life takes its twists and turns...
It's full of choices, decisions...
Sometimes you make the choices,
sometimes the decisions are made
for you! In the end: you live with the
results of the choices!

James 1:12-22, our scripture reading:
"Blessed is the man that endures
temptation, [trials]; let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God..." For
God cannot tempt with evil, nor tempts anyone. But everyone is tempted when he
is drawn away of his own lusts and enticed.



In 1 Samuel 31:

- We have here the tragic end of Saul's life.
- It did not have to be; Saul had so much talent and abilities, so much potential.
- But he disobeys and loses!
- The writer in this text is not so much interested in telling us the details of the defeat;
- But the details of the tragic end of Saul's life!
- The once great king of Israel! Now look at him.

- And we can contrast:
- **David:** Everyone is safe around him!
- **Saul:** Everyone dies around him!
- And they [Israel's army] are so devastated, they can't even retrieve bodies of royalty!

Let me give you some results of Saul's bad choices, that we have seen throughout 1 Samuel, and in this text:

- I. Saul's defeat (vs.1-3, 7)
Let me ask a question:
How can God allow the wicked of Philistia...?
the Philistines victory, let them occupy cities, allow them to mutilate the bodies of Saul and sons, carry around Saul's head mocking Israel and God, How can God allow this??
[God will use the wicked to punish His people.]
 - A. His defeat is by the enemy he was chosen as king to destroy! – humiliating.
 - B. And it affected others
 1. The men of Israel (v.1, 6b-7)
 2. His sons died (v.2)

II. Saul's self-murder

- A. Archer's wounded him
- B. Fell on sword, after asking armor-bearer to kill him.
- C. All his men died (v.6)
Samuel's haunting words – less than 24 hours old, now are echoed in verse 6

Let's talk about suicide:

- Can a Christian commit suicide?
 - Can a Christian murder someone? Yes
 - So, they can self-murder.
 - Why would someone do that to themselves?
 - Medications.
 - Severe Depression.
 - Troubled. Circumstances.
 - How do we get them help? Talk! Care! Love!
- Suicide is a real problem in our country and world today:

III. Saul's end

- A. It's not over till it's over, and it's sad...
- B. The magnitude of the defeat, couldn't come back for the bodies.
- C. The Philistines mistreat, mock & gloat v.9
praise their gods over the true God.
- D. The kindness of Jabesh-Gilead
- E. Burnt flesh, not bones – this is not cremation.

Conclusion:

- Saul's life, reign, disobedience, death; we have the whole picture.
- How do you think the writer of 1 Samuel is summing up Saul's life?
- Tragic, sad, terrible, what a shame,
- But it didn't have to be this way!!!
- Take your life...
- God wants to bless you
- You can also complicate your life, but it does not have to be!
- The book of Samuel shows us the Rise of a King...