

1 Samuel 14:24 – 52 “The Battle is the Lords!”

A) In this oath, Saul makes three mistakes.

1 Sam 13:2, 5, 6-7, 13-14 NLT

[#1] Saul does not seek the LORD, but instead makes this oath without the council of God.

[#2] If Saul wanted to fast during the day, then he should have fasted alone. But, instead, Saul put his own convictions on everyone else. That’s legalism - putting our personal convictions onto everyone else.

[#3] Saul was focused on himself. For Saul, this was about Saul getting vengeance on **his enemies**.

B) We have three great questions to ask ourselves to ensure wise decision making:

1 Sam 11:13

[#4] Have I sought the LORD to find His will?

[#5] Am I putting my convictions upon others, and falling into legalism?

[#6] Is my focus on myself and my victory, or on God and His victory?

C) The same is true for us today:

Psalm 19:7-8, 10-11 NLT; 1 Sam 17:47 NLT; Col 2:21-23

[#7] The same is true for us today: If our focus is on ourselves – then we, too, will limit God’s work in our lives and in His Church.

[#8] The best thing you can do to remain healthy and happy and strong in the Lord, is to eat of the honey of God’s Word regularly!

Psalm 19:10

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grows as God nourishes it. [20] You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, [21] "Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!"? [22] Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. [23] These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires."

Do you think man-made rules are ever beneficial to us? Why or why not?

What do you think is Paul's main point in this passage?

TAKING IT HOME

- 7) Looking back at your notes and homework, what do you most need to remember or put into practice?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ Pray for the persecuted church in Iran.
- ▶
- ▶

Summer Life Homework For the week of July 3, 2022

Welcome to Summer Life! Life Groups are on break for the summer. **However, join us on Wednesdays at 6:30pm at church for Summer Life.** Similar to Life Groups, we'll gather together to discuss the following questions, encourage one another, pray, and fellowship. Instead of multiple Life Groups meeting in different places, Summer Life invites everyone to come join one, big group discussion. **Childcare is provided.** Please take some time to answer the following questions so you're best prepared for the discussion.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) This week we read how King Saul made a foolish vow. Can you give an example of a time when *you* made a foolish vow? Be sure to also share your name, since we're in a bigger group!

REVIEW

- 2) Looking back at your notes, what stood out to you from this week's message in 1 Samuel 14:24-52? (Favorite point? Questions? etc..)

DIGGING DEEPER

- 3) Last week we saw how Jonathan determined God's will. This week we saw how Saul *failed* to determine God's will. What are some ways *you* seek to determine God's will in a situation?

4) What do the following passages teach us about God's Word?

Matthew 4:4 - *"But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' ""*

Hebrews 4:12 - *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

Ephesians 6:17 - *"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;"*

What benefits are there for those who often read/study the Bible?

5) This week we saw how King Saul was a poor judge. What stands out to you from the following passage?

Matthew 7:1-5 - *"[1] 'Judge not, that you be not judged. [2] 'For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. [3] 'And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? [4] 'Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? [5] 'Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."*

What are some "do's and don'ts" of judgment?

If you think a fellow Christian has sinned against you, what do you think you should do?

Is your answer above how you would want somebody to approach you if you sinned against them? Why or why not?

How would your approach be different if the person who sinned against you is *not* a Christian? How do you think you should respond?

6) Saul witnessed God moving powerfully - but he tried to *add* to God's work through his own wisdom and flesh (and ended up *limiting* God's blessing). What stands out to you from the following passage?

Colossians 2:16-23 NLT - *"[16] So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. [17] For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. [18] Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, [19] and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it*