

The Anointed King: Anticipation For A Forever King Begins

Trust in Tragedy, Treasure in Triumph

1 Samuel 29-31

Main Idea

God's providence ensures the fulfillment of His promises, so we should trust Him in our tragedies and treasure Him in our triumphs.

Overview

- **Treasuring God in Our Tragedies** (1 Samuel 29:1-30:10)
 - Achish is so fooled by David (cf. 27:5-12), that he makes David his personal bodyguard (cf. 28:1-2)
 - So David, who is a faithful Israelite, is marching with the Philistines as they go to battle Israel
 - David, who's just trying to be faithful to God, finds himself in a dicey situation
 - Achish might be fooled by David, but the commanders of the Philistine army are not – they demand Achish send David back to Ziklag
 - Who is right, Achish or the Philistine Commanders?
 - Text does not tell us explicitly
 - However, David has gone out of his way to not hurt Saul or harm God's people so it's unlikely he would have fought against them
 - David's language to Achish could be cryptic – he says he'll fight against the enemies of "my lord the king" – that is what he repeatedly calls Saul.
 - Had David gone to battle and turned he could have saved Saul, but God had other plans – he said Saul would die (cf. 28:17-19)
 - God works providentially – even using the desires of his enemies – to carry out his sovereign plan – he protects David and brings judgment on Saul
 - God was providentially working to have David become the next king with clean hands
 - For David it goes from bad to worse
 - He returns to Ziklag to find it plundered
 - His own men turn against him
 - Yet, in all of this David trusts and seeks the Lord his God
- **Treasuring God in Our Triumphs** (1 Samuel 30:11-30)
 - God promises David will find the Amalekites, recover all his good and rescue all the people
 - God providentially provides an Egyptian to help David find the Amalekites
 - Upon finding the Amalekites David slaughters them – this is not personal vengeance, but David is doing what Saul failed to do (cf. ch 15).
 - Some of the self-righteous men that were with David did not want to share the spoils of battle
 - But David, recognizing that all things come from the Lord, was eager to share
 - He shared with the undeserving – those who did not go to battle
 - He shared with Judah – to unify and rebuild the kingdom
 - David establishes his rule, not by taking as Saul had done, but by graciously and generously giving – in this he points to the greater David, King Jesus
- **What Happens When We Do Not Trust and Treasure God** (1 Samuel 31)

- God had promised Saul would die due to his unfaithfulness (cf. 1 Chron. 10:13-14), and his providence ensures that death comes about
- God is not being harsh and vindictive; rather Saul's life shows the patience and grace and justice of God
- God will judge sin and rebellion, and he will bless faith and repentance

Questions

Discussion Starter: *How have seen (or done so yourself) people cry out to God in the bad times only to forget God in the good times?*

1. Read 1 Samuel 28:1-2, 29:1-11. Why does David find himself in the “dicey” position he’s in? How do you see God’s providence at work in this situation?
2. How does this illustrate what the apostle Paul said in Romans 8:32? Have you seen something like this happen in your own life?
3. Read 1 Samuel 30:1-6. In these verses, David’s situation goes from bad to worse. Explain what David has done to “deserve” these bad things to happen to him. How does this caution us from using our current circumstances to determine God’s “closeness” to us and care for us?
4. Read these Psalms from David: Psalm 20:7-8, 28:7, 56:1-4. How do these verses challenge you to seek strength in the Lord in times of trouble? Practically, speaking how can you do that? How can you help others do that?
5. Read 1 Samuel 30:7-20. How do you see God’s providence at work yet again to ensure the fulfillment of His promises?
6. Read 1 Samuel 30:21-30. Why are the “wicked and worthless” men unwilling to share? Why is David so willing and eager to share the spoils of victory even with those who did not go to battle? How does this point to the gospel?
7. Read 1 Samuel 8:10-17. How does David look different than the king Samuel warned of? How does David point to Jesus in this way?
8. Read 1 Samuel 31:1-7. What do these verses tell you about the danger of presuming upon God’s grace/living in unrepentant sin? What do these verses tell you about the character of God?

Accountability question: Are there bad/unfavorable circumstances in your life where you are not trusting God? Are there good/favorable circumstances in your life where you’ve forgotten God?