

## What You Need to Know About SAUL:

### “The King with the Unsurrendered Will and the Unrepentant Heart”

#### Study Number Three – 1 Samuel 11:1-15

Hannah Whitall Smith wrote a book called *The God Who is Enough*. And in the book she talks about the problem that every Christian has. That's a problem of learning to live with the self that's within us.

The self within us will always be there. It always has the potential for the most dire and negative results. And this is what she says:

(The God Who is Enough by Hannah Whitall Smith)

It is of no use, then, for us to examine self and to tinker with it in the hope of improving it, for the thing the Lord wants us to do with it is to get rid of it. Fenelon, in his book *Spiritual Letters*, says that the only way to treat self is to refuse to have anything to do with it. He says we must turn our backs on this great big “I” of ours, and to say to it, “I do not know you, and am not interested in you, and I refuse to pay any attention to you whatever.” But self is always determined to secure attention, and would rather be thought badly of than not to be thought of at all. And self-examination

with all its miseries often gives a sort of morbid satisfaction to the self-life in us, and even deludes self into thinking it's a very humble and pious sort of self after all.

The only safe and scriptural way is to have nothing to do with self at all, either with good self or with bad self, but simply to ignore self altogether; and to fix our eyes, and our thoughts, and our expectations on the Lord and on Him alone. We must substitute for the personal pronouns "I," "me," "my," the pronoun "He," "Him," "His"; and must ask ourselves, not "am I good?" but "is He good?"

The psalmist says, "Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he shall pluck my feet out of the net."

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Saul has been referred to as "Too Tall Saul." In a lot of ways that describes the man that we're studying.

Saul comes from a very wealthy home. He's had everything given to him. And in the process, everything given to him was there except for the spiritual.

So many times, when people have a lot, they give everything but they let their children kind of make it on their own in the spiritual. As a result, there are some dire and serious consequences.

Saul is a man who came out of that background with no thought of who Samuel was, no thought of spiritual things. And then we saw him anointed as king of the land. The people said, "We want a king to rule over us. We want to be like other

nations. We don't want to have God rule over us anymore.”

This upset Samuel and all of his plans. But Samuel warned Saul as he was beginning to rule God's people. And when ruling God's people, they are in danger of being God in their lives rather than letting God work in their lives.

And to be leader of God's people we need to learn two things:

1. being SUBMISSIVE to God and
2. OBEDIENT to Him.

The greatest leaders are those who are leaders by example. Saul's probably six foot ten, would have been first in the NBA draft, came from a rich home, good looking, had everything going for him, with military prowess and all the rest. He is now king of the land.

The tragedy that we're going to see in this man's life is that he never dealt with himself. He never really was a man who ever repented. He was never a man who admits that he had a need.

John 12 says:

John 12:24, 25

Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abide alone. But if it die it brings forth much fruit.

Jesus said, “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” (ref. Luke 9:23)

Paul said, “I have been crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live, yet not I but Christ is living in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (ref. Galatians 2:20)

John the Baptist is the epitome of a man who learned what it was to magnify the person of Christ. He said in John 3:

### John 3:30

He, Christ, must continually be increasing and I must be decreasing.

The difference between the Saul of the Old Testament and the Saul of the New Testament (who became the apostle Paul) is seen in Philippians 3. Paul says:

### Philippians 3:8

I counted everything but loss for Christ...

And as a result of that, he was a man who was greatly used by the Lord.

Christ came to give us life abundant.

## John 10:10

... I am come that you might have life and you might have it more abundant.

We wish we could have some of that. Well, then give up on what we're doing. We can't have our cake and eat it too. We have to die to our selfish desires. We have to get out of the way and let the Lord have His way. He will not come to us on a joint venture plan to give us the abundant life on our terms. We just are not going to get it that way.

Saul never learns that. And as a result, it's going to be sad. We're on the skids. This is the high point of this man's life. We get to see one time when things are great, when everything is fantastic. And we'll go away rejoicing for old King Saul. He really put it together.

But oh that he would die now and we wouldn't have to go through the next episodes of a man who reveals how selfish, how ego-centered, how unbreakable, how stubborn, how bull-headed he becomes, and what a tragedy when it all comes to the end.

In the first episode, Saul was looking for donkeys with his servant. He ended up meeting Samuel and received the kingship. In our last study he was anointed as king. He spent some time with the prophets. They also had the political convention and Saul was chosen. He's now king of the land.

It's interesting that after he becomes king of the land he just goes back home and acts like nothing has happened. We will always have a tendency, when something big happens in our lives, to immediately respond and take the reins and start to act. Saul didn't do that.

He just backs off and goes home to the farm knowing that he's been anointed and been made king. But he's going to wait for God's time for this.

There are some people who've said, "Who is this guy ruling over us?" And they don't like him. We saw that in the last verse of our previous study. So there are a few that don't like him. But he's going to go back to the farm and wait for the time for God to do something.

### Psalm 27:14

Wait on the Lord,  
be of good courage  
and He'll strengthen your heart,  
Wait, I say on the Lord.

When we are most eager to act is when we'll make the most pitiful mistakes in our life. Satan rushes men, God leads them.

Saul is going to wait. Even after the election, after all the parties are over, he's back plowing the furrow with the mule, working on the farm, waiting for the opportunity for God to do

something in his life.

If he could take this one thing that happens and apply this to the rest of his life, the next episodes would be altogether different.

For instance, in this passage he can't wait so he's disobedient. The stress of circumstances comes in and so he acts and falls apart. It's so beautiful. He just goes back and he waits for further instructions and for the Lord to open up the way.

And can we make a principle at this point before we get started? The Lord will always provide the opportunity at the right time. Wow!

The Lord will always provide the opportunity at the right time.

For Saul to immediately have set up business and become the leader would have not been the Lord's right time. He will.

### Ecclesiastes 3:11

He makes all things beautiful in His time.

### Habakkuk 2:3

... It will not be overdue a single day.

Wait for it. The Lord's always on time.

## Galatians 4:4, 5

When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son.

Now it's been about a month since the events of our last study and the opening of our current chapter. We're going to get to see him take the reins of kingship and he is going to lead the country in its first war against the Ammonites.

Let's look at it. Let's pick up at verse 1.

**v. 1 Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to him, “Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you.”**

“Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to him, ‘Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you.’”

Now don't get lost with all those things, okay? We've got a guy by the name of Nahash. He's the leader of the Ammonites. Alright we've got Ammonites and termites and all those kinds of “ites” in the Bible. And sometimes we can get lost with them.

Ammonites—the sons of Ammon. They were always enemies of the nation Israel. Fighting against them constantly. We'll even see them later on in the life of David and at other times

doing battle.

Jabesh Gilead is the land that is east of the Jordan River. Most of the land of Israel is on the western bank. On the eastern side is some of the richest pastureland and these Ammonites want that. That's the best land for pastureland and for raising crops. It's well-watered and well-sheltered and they wanted it.

Now there is another reason that they're getting ready to do battle. The Ammonites, during the period of the Judges, actually controlled all of Israel for eighteen years. And then Jephthah became the judge that liberated the nation from the Ammonites.

The Ammonites are oozing with vengeance because they've been hurt as Jephthah and the armies of Israel overran them and liberated them in the time of the Judges. And now they're looking for this opportunity.

And so it says here that he came and "besieged Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to him, 'Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you.'"

Now what's wrong with that? That is the sorriest, saddest, sickest response of God's people. Why?

Every time we see God's people in fellowship with Him, when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against them. The spiritual leaders of the land

asked God to intervene and God did and miracles took place and they won the victory.

Here they're so weak. They're saying, "Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you."

Remember in the life of Elisha all the hosts of Syria came down to Dothan to get Elisha, remember? And he had a brand new servant because Naaman had gotten leprosy. And he was out by the wall and this new servant goes out in the morning to get some water and he sees these thousands of Assyrians surrounding Dothan to take him. And he comes running and he's just falling apart and he says, "Elisha, Elisha, you won't believe what's outside." And Elisha just says, "Son, those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

Remember that?

And the guy's saying, "1, 2, 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000." This guy needs to go back to school. And finally the Lord says, "Open his eyes so he can see." And he sees the great host of the unseen chariots of fire and the army of the Lord there to protect them and to deliver them. (see 2 Kings 6)

When the people of God have to turn tail and capitulate, it's because they've lost their Christian principles.

When we are concerned about going to the peace table to compromise there's something wrong. Today there is a slide that takes place in a country, and it's taking place in the United States right before our eyes. Christian principle leads

to conviction that develops character that leads to courage. It just goes exactly like that.

And when we surrender Christian principles then we destroy conviction. We don't have anything to stand for. And conviction destroys character, because it doesn't matter what we do and what we don't do. And character destroys courage. What do we have to fight for?

Just look at our land, the difference between over two hundred years ago and today. And those who are willing to die for their principles. Where are the Patrick Henrys? "Give me liberty or give me death." Today it's "Give me. Whatever you got, I want it. Give me, give me, give me."

Principle:

A loss of virtue always results in the loss of valor.

Romans 8:31

... If God be for us, who can be against us?

A little girl's paraphrase of that is great:

"If God be for us, you're up against it."  
(source unknown)

You and God make the majority.

This is sad, isn't it? The people of God are saying, "Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you."

"We'll let you Ammonites lead us and rule over us."

What a great opportunity for Saul to come in on his white horse. That's what's going to happen here.

**v. 2 But Nahash the Ammonite replied, "I will make a treaty with you only on the condition that I gouge out the right eye of every one of you and so bring disgrace on all Israel."**

"But Nahash the Ammonite replied, 'I will make a treaty with you only on the condition that I gouge out the right eye of every one of you and so bring disgrace on all Israel.'"

Understand what happens when you take a guy's right eye? When they fought in those days most of them were right-eyed. And they had a sword in their right hand and a shield in their left hand. Okay, what does the shield cover? The left eye.

Alright, where's the right eye? It's gone. Those guys are not able to fight anymore. They figure that this contract means that they're nullifying every man in their army. And they will never rise again to beat them. That's playing by rules that mean they'll never fight again.

In essence this is like total surrender. It's like giving up by making them ineffectual to ever fight another battle again.

**v. 3 The elders of Jabesh said to him, “Give us seven days so we can send messengers throughout Israel; if no one comes to rescue us, we will surrender to you.”**

“The elders of Jabesh said to him, ‘Give us seven days so we can send messengers throughout Israel; if no one comes to rescue us, we will all surrender to you.’”

Sounds like a bunch of Jews, doesn’t it?

“Give us a week, we’ll send a few messengers throughout Israel. If no one comes to rescue us, we will surrender to you.”

That’s playing into the hands of the enemy, isn’t it?

Jabesh should have sent messengers in the wrong place. Psalm 50 says:

**Psalm 50:15**

Call upon me in the day of trouble  
and I will deliver you.

They’re trying to work this out on their own. It’s all strictly on a human horizontal basis. There’s no God brought into this at all. It’s just, “Let us send some messengers, give us a week. We’ll see what we can do. We know the ultimate outcome but...” What’s going to happen?

What's so bad about that? People have an awful short memory about what's been done for them, or what's been done by God for them.

These people have been miraculously delivered from the land of Egypt. They've come across the Red Sea. They've been brought to the Jordan River. They've been sustained with manna and meat and water in the wilderness. They've been miraculously brought into the land and been given victory after victory in the time of Joshua, in the time of Judges. Gideon delivered them from the Mideonites, Jephthah from the Ammonites. This ought to be just writing another chapter in God's marvelous grace in providing and protecting them.

### Jeremiah 32:27

Behold I am the Lord God of all flesh, is anything too hard for me?

### Jeremiah 33:3

Call upon me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.

How soon we forget.

Nobody prays. Nobody seeks God's face. The Lord still says:

### 2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people which are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, turn from their wicked ways, then I will here from heaven. I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land.

So they forget.

**v. 4 When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and reported these terms to the people, they all wept aloud.**

“When the messengers came to Gibeah”—that’s pretty much in the middle of the land of Israel.

“Gibeah of Saul”—this is where he went back—“and reported these terms to the people, they all wept aloud.”

Now isn’t that the way it is? Just crying over how sad it all is. How terrible. Everybody in Jabesh Gilead is going to lose their right eye and they’re some of the best fighters.

The biggest and the strongest people came from the eastern side of the Jordan. These are tough guys. In fact David experienced one of the liberations of his kingdom and the kingdom was restored to him after Absalom took it away from him by being Jabesh Gilead. These are tough customers.

And all they’re doing is crying a lot. Crying tears of self-pity and unbelief really. How sad when we get our eyes on our

circumstances, we cry a lot instead of turning to God and seeing the victory.

### Philippians 4:13

I am ready for anything through the strength of the one who indwells me.

### 1 John 4:4

Greater is he that is in us than he that is the world.

### Isaiah 59:19

When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

Kind of like the report of the spies when they came back from being in the land at Kadesh Barnea. Ten of the guys said, “Boy, there are giants over there and we’ll never take it.” Joshua and Caleb say, “We’ve got a big God. He promised it to us. Let’s go!”

The majority flank kept them on the wrong side of the Jordan. Remember that? They all believed the ten guys. Started weeping and crying and couldn’t go over into the land because, “Oh man, it’s too big, too bad, too terrible.”

When we get our eyes on the circumstances, we always render a wrong verdict every time. And these guys are sitting around

crying when Saul comes up.

**v. 5 Just then Saul was returning from the fields, behind his oxen, and he asked, “What is wrong with the people? Why are they weeping?” Then they repeated to him what the men of Jabesh had said.**

“Just then Saul was returning from the fields, behind his oxen, and he asked, ‘What is wrong with the people? Why are they weeping?’”

Two questions:

1. “What’s wrong?”
2. “Why are they weeping?”

“Then they repeated to him what the men of Jabesh had said.”

Now notice verse 6.

**v. 6 When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he burned with anger.**

“When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he burned with anger.”

He is energized by the Spirit of God for this first act of service and he is really ticked that these guys would have the gall to

come in and reproach the people of God with a contract in seven days to take out their right eye and render the eastern borders of the land theirs. This is more than he can take.

**v. 7 He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, “This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel.” Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they turned out as one man.**

“He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, ‘This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel.’ Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they turned out as one man.”

He sent a visible object lesson to the troops and he said, “You better show up man, if you don’t want this to happen to your oxen.”

Oxen were the means of doing all the plowing, all the work and all the burden-bearing.

This is something pretty serious. Notice who Saul identifies with? Samuel. He has no credibility at this point apart from Samuel.

But also notice something else very subtle. Whose name is first? That’s just a little clue what’s going to take place.

It's funny when guys go into a partnership and the first name on the deal is usually the macho man. There's a struggle over whose name's going to be placed first. And whoever's name is placed first is probably the proudest of the bunch. And he had to be there or he was the strongest partner in the bunch and so he had the right to be there.

And here it's just a little thing. But just remember, tuck it away for a little while because later on it's going to come back because there's going to be a horrible, horrible cleavage between Saul and Samuel in this whole thing.

“Just a little thing. I want to tell you; this is what's going to happen if you don't follow Saul and Samuel.”

“Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they turned out as one man.”

Can the Lord do what He wants to do and get the people's attention? They're all there. They're sitting in the front row and excited.

Look at the results.

**v. 8 When Saul mustered them at Bezek, the men of Israel numbered three hundred thousand and the men of Judah thirty thousand.**

“When Saul mustered them at Bezek, the men of Israel

numbered three hundred thousand and the men of Judah thirty thousand.”

Now that's a pretty nice sized army in five or six days, isn't it?

Three hundred and thirty thousand troops.

**v. 9 They told the messengers who had come, “Say to the men of Jabesh Gilead, ‘By the time the sun is hot tomorrow, you will be delivered.’” When the messengers went and reported this to the men of Jabesh, they were elated.**

“They told the messengers who had come now, ‘Say to the men of Jabesh Gilead, “By the time the sun is hot tomorrow, you will be delivered.”’ When the messengers went and reported this to the men of Jabesh, they were elated.”

That's kind of like going to a guy and saying, “Guess what? The calvary's going to be on time. Seventh day, tomorrow by noon, it's all going to be over. You're going to make it. Everything's going to be fine.”

Instead of thinking about the calvary coming just at the right time to deliver everybody from the Indians, why don't we stop for a minute and just say God is faithful.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Faithful is the one who is calling you who will also do it.

Why don't we just say, "God You're wonderful. You always help those who are willing to turn to You and turn it over to You and trust You to lead and to direct in their lives."

### Isaiah 4:31

They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount of wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint.

### Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not, for I with you; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen you; I'll help you; yea, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.

### Isaiah 26:3

Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.

He has this, rejoice. Help is on the way.

"Tomorrow when the sun's hot"—that's the seventh day. It's the last day.

"Good news, the chariot's coming. You guys have got help on the way and your help is coming in the number of three hundred and thirty thousand soldiers."

**v. 10 They said to the Ammonites, “Tomorrow we will surrender to you, and you can do to us whatever seems good to you.”**

“They said to the Ammonites, ‘Tomorrow we will surrender to you, and you can do to us whatever seems good to you.’”

Now that sounds like a bunch of Jews. It's telling them something so they can get them, sneak up on the blind side. Kind of catch them off guard a little bit.

They all hit the sack that night.

**v. 11 The next day Saul separated his men into three divisions; during the last watch of the night they broke into the camp of the Ammonites and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.**

“The next day”

Of course, this is in the middle of the night—this watch is between three and six in the morning. It's in the middle of the night:

“Saul separated his men into three divisions; during the last watch of the night”

So if he made three groups with 110,000 in each of the groups.

Well just stop for a second, okay? Gideon only had a hundred in three groups—or three hundred against 120,000—and they won.

God doesn't need a bunch of numbers. God is not impressed by the quantity. It's just the quality of their hearts. He's the One who leads in triumph. Numbers are terribly incidental to Him. And just because there's 110,000 in each of these doesn't mean anything. They could still lose if God wasn't in the battle. Or they could win if there were only a hundred or 110,000. It wouldn't make any difference.

Let's look at the rest of verse 11:

“Saul separated his men into three divisions; during the last watch of the night they broke into the camp of the Ammonites and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.”

**v. 12 The people then said to Samuel, “Who was it that asked, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Bring these men to us and we will put them to death.”**

“The people then said to Samuel, ‘Who was it that asked, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Bring these men to us and we will put them to death.’”

“Who were these that were the minority at the coronation of the king when they were all upset and negative? Time to bring these guys out! We got ourselves a king on our side. And he is a military genius. He is a hero because he has liberated us from the Ammonites.”

“Now Saul, deal with the resistance so we can all be unified!”

And he said to Samuel:

“Who was it that asked, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Bring these men to us and we will put them to death.”

Now the Lord has a way of vindicating His own. And He's already done that for Saul.

**v. 13 But Saul said, “No one shall be put to death today, for this day the Lord has rescued Israel.”**

“But Saul said, ‘No one shall be put to death today, for this day the Lord has rescued Israel.’”

Just savor that, just enjoy that to the fullest. This is the last time he's ever going to say it.

It's amazing what a little power and a little success will do to someone. He's so humble now. He's so broken. He realizes that God let him through Samuel do the right thing. Mustered all these people, won a great victory.

And now he says, “Nobody’s going to die tonight because the Lord’s the one who did this. It isn’t a fight against me. Oh the Lord did it.”

If he had done nothing else but this, and then died when he got through saying it, he would have been one of the great heroes in scripture.

Sometimes we grow too soon old and too late smart.

**v. 14 Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there reaffirm the kingship.”**

“Then Samuel said to the people, ‘Come, let us go to Gilgal and there reaffirm the kingship.’”

Samuel says instead of the execution like these guys are saying—Saul doesn’t want to have a part with because the Lord is the one to be glorified—let’s go up to Gilgal.

Now Gilgal is the first place that the children of Israel came to when they crossed the Jordan River into the land. Gilgal is a key religious center.

We saw Gilgal as one of the places for the schools of the prophet in the time of Elisha. It’s a big city. So he’s saying, “Let’s go there, worship the Lord and reaffirm the kingship.”

**v. 15 So all the people went to Gilgal and confirmed Saul as king in the presence of the Lord. There they**

## **sacrificed fellowship offerings before the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration.**

“So all the people went to Gilgal and confirmed Saul as king in the presence of the Lord. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings before the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration.”

Now notice the little word “fellowship.” This is also the last time we’re going to see this word in the life of Saul. Everything from here on in has to be sin offerings. Now it’s “fellowship.”

Understand the difference between relationship and fellowship? Understand that when we come to know Christ in a personal way we enter into an eternal relationship with Him. We invite Him into our heart and life by faith. He becomes our Savior.

Then at that point we can either, in any given moment, be in fellowship or out of fellowship. Whether we’re living selfishly or under the control of the Holy Spirit.

When we’re living for self and under the control of the old nature, or our flesh, we’re out of fellowship. We’re never out of relationship. Just like we’re born into a family, we can never be unborn in that family. We will be a son or daughter of those parents forever.

The eternal destiny is settled by relationship. But in our walk

with God, we're either in fellowship or out of fellowship. It's the same way with husbands and wives. They're in a relationship but they're either communicating or not communicating. They're either in fellowship or out of fellowship in the relationship.

The difference for Saul is Samuel can offer fellowship offerings. Everybody is excited and thrilled at what God has done.

Many Christians will never experience great success in their lives because they couldn't be trusted with it without getting a big head. In our next study we see the downhill slide, because this victory over the Ammonites does something to Saul that changes the whole perspective of a farmer out behind an ox, plowing the furrows, to all of a sudden becoming the great healer of the land. All the attention has just caved in on him and he can't handle success. We're going to see it.

There are a number of lessons we got out of our study.

Lesson #1: When we wait for the Lord, He will provide the opportunity for a full expression of His will.

It's amazing at how our brothers and sisters in the family will rejoice because they can see it's obviously His will. As we struggle and move ahead of these things, when we wait for the Lord, He will provide the opportunity for the full expression of His will.

## Psalm 27:13

I remain confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the Lord  
In the land of the living

## Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Lesson #2: With the departure of Christian principles, conviction, character and courage also go.

Absence of virtue—no valor.

Lesson #3: The price of compromise is very high.

These guys are all about to lose their right eyes. And when we compromise our convictions, the price is just as high as far as God is concerned.

“Daniel purposed in his heart ...” (see Daniel 1:8)

“Joseph said, ‘I cannot do this great wickedness against God ...’ (see Genesis 39:9)

Lesson #4: Saul continues to be a farmer until the Lord provides the opportunity to take the leadership.

Contentment where we are is critical until the Lord opens the door for something else. So many people try so quickly to make many things happen and they find themselves out of the will of God early in their Christian lives.

Saul continues to be a farmer until the Lord provides the opportunity.

Lesson #5: The Lord always gives the victory when we're walking in His will.

## 2 Corinthians 2:14

Thanks be unto God who always leads us in triumph.

Lesson #6: Saul's humility is expressed in the phrase "The Lord has rescued Israel.

Lesson #7: The joy that is expressed is from the Lord.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy.... We're singing a happy song. Joy is the flag that flies when the king's in residence—is that what it says?

## 1 John 1:3, 4

That which we have seen and heard declaring unto you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ...in order that

you also might have your joy made full.

Joy results from being where the Lord wants us to be and being in fellowship with Him.

Saul cannot be trusted with success. At the point of our victory, we're most vulnerable.

Where do we look when we're in trouble?

These guys were looking to all the rest of the nation Israel. And the last place they wanted to look was to the Lord.

Jehoshaphat declared a fast. He called on the Lord and said, "Our eyes are upon you. The move is Yours. The battle is the Lord's."

We are never going to see Saul expressing any love or kindness from here on in. He just doesn't express it. It's always hatred, bitterness, lashing out, no love.

Father, we would pray You would teach us how to be able to run into Your presence and be what we are, not trying to be something phony but just being real people that You can love and relate to. Lord, we know that You created us originally for a relationship. That was botched up in the garden so You had to take the drastic measures of Calvary to provide for a salvation from sin. We're all sinful, we all fall short, but You in Your grace keep on loving us and we thank You for that. Thanks for never giving up on us. We pray if there's someone

who really has been caught up in a lot of things that are secondary, just like Saul, that they would really make top priority in their lives to develop a spiritual relationship with You. Lord, please deal with that which is the offense and bring them close to the reality and the joy of a relationship that is magnifying the person of the Lord Jesus. For it's in the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

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## What You Need to Know About SAUL:

### “The King with the Unsurrendered Will and the Unrepentant Heart”

#### Study Number Three – 1 Samuel 11:1-15

#### NOTES

v. 1 Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to him, “Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you.”

v. 2 But Nahash the Ammonite replied, “I will make a treaty with you only on the condition that I gouge out the right eye of every one of you and so bring disgrace on all Israel.”

v. 3 The elders of Jabesh said to him, “Give us seven days so we can send messengers throughout Israel; if no one comes to rescue us, we will surrender to you.”

v. 4 When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and reported these terms to the people, they all wept aloud.

v. 5 Just then Saul was returning from the fields, behind his oxen, and he asked, “What is wrong with the people? Why are they weeping?” Then they repeated to him what the men of Jabesh had said.

v. 6 When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he burned with anger.

v. 7 He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, “This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel.” Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they turned out as one man.

v. 8 When Saul mustered them at Bezek, the men of Israel numbered three hundred thousand and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

v. 9 They told the messengers who had come, “Say to the men of Jabesh Gilead, ‘By the time the sun is hot tomorrow, you will be delivered.’” When the messengers went and reported this to the men of Jabesh, they were elated.

## NOTES

v. 10 They said to the Ammonites, “Tomorrow we will surrender to you, and you can do to us whatever seems good to you.”

v. 11 The next day Saul separated his men into three divisions; during the last watch of the night they broke into the camp of the Ammonites and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

v. 12 The people then said to Samuel, “Who was it that asked, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Bring these men to us and we will put them to death.”

v. 13 But Saul said, “No one shall be put to death today, for this day the Lord has rescued Israel.”

v. 14 Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there reaffirm the kingship.”

v. 15 So all the people went to Gilgal and confirmed Saul as king in the presence of the Lord. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings before the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration.

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## QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Samuel 11:1-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. Describe the treaty sought by Nahash the Ammonite in verse 2.

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3. Describe Saul's response to the treaty in verses 6-8.

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4. What report is given to the men of Jabesh Gilead by the messengers in verse 10?

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5. How do the people respond to the victory in verse 12?

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6. How does Saul analyze the victory, according to verse 13?

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7. What is Samuel's advice in verse 14?

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8. What do the people do in verse 15?

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9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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### **LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

**LESSON #1:** When we wait for the Lord, He will provide the opportunity for a full expression of His will.

**LESSON #2:** With the departure of the Christian principles of conviction and character, also goes courage.

**LESSON #3:** The price of compromise is very high.

**LESSON #4: Saul continues to be a farmer until the Lord provides the opportunity to take the leadership.**

**LESSON #5: The Lord always gives the victory when we are walking in His will.**

**LESSON #6: Saul's humility is expressed in the phrase, "The Lord has rescued Israel."**

**LESSON #7: The joy that is expressed is from the Lord.**

**LESSON #8: Saul cannot be trusted with success. At the point of your victory, you're most vulnerable.**

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