

## 1 Samuel 14:24-52

### Let Us Draw Near to God Here

Are you ready to do the work of the Lord? When He speaks or leads, do you obey? Do you listen to the Spirit of God when He convicts you, or do you ignore Him. Or, *do you listen for one day* and then go back to your old habits?

**Do you get impetuous, or do you seek God, wait on God, then obey God?**

**We can all struggle with doing things our own way and not seeking God; and, we can all struggle with ignoring what we should do because we do not want to.**

**Saul did not listen to God. Saul is going to go before God, and it is going to get him into big trouble!**

At the beginning of chapter 14, Saul was busy bragging and he was unprepared. Jonathan attacked, and with God's leadership and power the Jews were victorious. Now, we see an example of God clearly sending His people into battle and giving clear instructions.

**Vs 24-30** Saul is impetuous and calls all the people to fast until the evening. As he makes this edict, he says that the person who eats is to be cursed. Saul could have just given the command and left it at that. It is not clear why Saul made this edict. What was clear is that the men had been fighting all day and the Lord had made them victorious.

It is one thing if you know a command and you deliberately break it, but is another if there is not enough time given for people to understand what they are being asked to do.

Jonathan did not deliberately disobey. He never heard or understood the command.

Saul keeps moving ahead without the Lord's leadership. He did this before when he did not wait on Samuel to make the sacrifices to God. Now, he tells everyone to fast or they will be cursed.

God always provides for His people; God may have provided this honey.

The people were weary from exhaustion and did not eat during the battle. As soon as Jonathan ate, he felt better. He got some energy.

The people do fear the king and they want to honor him. They are troubled because Jonathan broke this command unintentionally.

Jonathan even points out that this does not make much sense. The hard-fought victory could be even better if they ate the food and recovered from this difficult day.

**Vs 31-35** The people are very hungry. When the evening comes and they can eat, they are in such a hurry that they do not drain the meat well. **Eating this meat without draining the blood well is strictly prohibited. Gen 9:2, Lev 7:26**

**Gen 9:2** <sup>2</sup> *The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered.*

**Lev 7:26** <sup>26</sup> *Moreover, you shall eat no blood whatever, whether of fowl or of animal, in any of your dwelling places.*

**God's law is for our good. Even when we try to do right, we break God's law. We sin. Sin separates us from God. This is why we need a Savior.**

**The law shows us how guilty we are. The law shows us we deserve punishment. The law shows us that we are in need of a Savior.**

Sometimes, when we want something really bad, we forget that this is a blatant sin against God. God see this and knows this. God cares about this.

**In what area are you currently sinning against the almighty God, but you just don't care? Are you willing to repent of that? Are you willing to ask God for forgiveness and ask Jesus to help you?**

**1 Corinthians 1:25** *For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

**2 Corinthians 13:9** *For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for.*

**Godly leadership is encouraging people to do the right thing, even when it is hard or unpopular.**

**2 Corinthians 12:10** *For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

**Vs 36-42-** The priest stops Saul from being impetuous again, and is trying to train Saul to seek the Lord.

**Do you seek the Lord, or just do what you want? Are you your own god, or is God your God?**

God does not always answer us when we want Him to.

The casting of lots was one of the only ways in which people could seek God and get a clear answer right away. They trusted in God's sovereignty that much. *(to me it would have been better to wait on God ☺)*

Why do we not cast lots now as Christians? We have the Word, and the Spirit.

**Vs 43-46** Jonathan openly confesses. He owned it.

The people see that Jonathan loves the Lord and was victorious, and they see that Saul was the impetuous one.

**Vs 47-52** God's people were victorious because of His strength.

**What are you struggling with right now? Are you asking God to help you and bless you? Are you doing it in His strength or your own? You will be more successful asking God to help you then you will relying on your own strength and power.**

**Do you get impetuous, or do you seek God, wait on God, then obey God?**

**Do you do things in your own strength or God's strength?**

**Are you doing anything that you know you should not do? Are you willing to turn, seek the Lord, and ask Him for help?**

**LET US DRAW NEAR TO GOD!**

**Romans 15:5** *May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*