

“Saul’s Cowardly Act” (1 Sam. 31:1-7)

(A Biblical Game of Thrones: From Saul to Solomon – Lesson #22)

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I. Sin Has _____.

1. Saul disobeyed God and did not wipe out the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15:1-31).
 - They raided David’s city, Ziklag (30:1-5).
2. Saul disobeyed God and consulted the witch at Endor.
 - Now he and his sons will _____ at the hands of the Philistines (28:19).
3. Reasons it was Samuel who addressed Saul:
 - A. The witch was _____ (28:12).
 1. Normal practice for a necromancer involved deception, _____, or both.
 2. This fiasco was not business as usual!
 - B. The text says it was Samuel (28:15, 16).
 - C. His message fits God’s Law: _____ Saul for disobedience (vv. 16-18).
 - D. He correctly _____ the death of Saul and his sons by the Philistines the next day (v. 19).
4. The Philistines won the battle that ended on Mt. Gilboa (31:1-8).

II. Saul’s Sad Ending (vv. 4-6).

1. The Philistines killed Saul’s 3 _____, including Jonathan (v. 2).
 - In normal line of succession, Jonathan would be the next king, but Saul’s sins prevented that.
2. The archers badly wounded Saul (v. 3).
3. To avoid his enemy’s ridicule, Saul ordered his armor bearer to _____ him—amounting to suicide.
 - A. Was Saul thinking about the ridicule of _____?
 - B. Saul’s order was wrong.
4. His armor bearer _____ to kill Saul (v. 4).
5. So, Saul wrongly took his own life (v. 5).
6. Then his armor bearer wrongly took his own life (v. 6).
7. These deaths demoralized the men of Israel and strengthened their enemy (v. 7).

III. What is Wrong with Suicide?

1. _____ is wrong—even murder of self (Ex. 20:13).
 - A. God made humanity in His image (Gen. 1:26-27).
 - B. All human life is _____—from the womb to the tomb.
 - Thus, abortion and euthanasia are sins, too.

2. Only God, the Giver of life, has the authority to take away life (Job 1:21).
3. Suicide is sort sighted. It is a permanent end to a _____ problem.
4. Suicide is _____.
 - It does great harm to family, friends, and others.
5. It is _____, but it is not the unforgivable sin (Matt. 12:31), which is rejection of salvation.
6. For a non-Christian, it cuts off any opportunity to receive Christ as Savior and Lord.
7. For a Christian:
 - A. It usurps God's authority.
 - B. It shows a lack of _____ in God's provision and care.
 - C. It cuts off any future possibility of _____ God.
 - D. It gives a _____ testimony to an unbeliever.
 - E. Although it is a horrible act, it is forgivable.

IV. Application

1. _____ life.
2. Take a strong stand for _____ human life.

Next Week (July 21): "Honoring a Former Hero" (1 Sam. 31:8-13)