

## **Bible Study Lesson Summary, Aug. 2, 2020**

*Today's lesson includes Days 138-144 on your reading guide.*

### **THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL**

**1Sm. 26:** Saul is back to trying to kill David. David spares him again. Vs. 21, Saul asks for forgiveness again and receives it, just like confession. David's forgiveness is again a foreshadowing of Jesus in this forgiveness. David's taunting Abner is like Jesus taunting the Pharisees, who are the self-proclaimed upholders of Jewish law.

**1Sm. 27:** David goes to live with the Philistines because he did not trust Saul. David would attack Israel's foes but tell the Philistines he was fighting their foes. But David killed every person so no one could betray him to the Philistines. Jesus would go to Gentile towns when the Pharisees were giving Him a hard time, but he would try to save them all.

**1Sm. 28:** Samuel died in chapter 25 and now Saul ends up going to a witch to conjure him up. This is a horrible sin, like the Ouiji board. Saul realizes his sin. This sin obviously continues to our time.

**1Sm. 29:** David is told by the Philistine lord's that he is not to accompany them into Israeli territory, so he goes back into Philistine territory. Jesus was not totally accepted in his home town of Nazareth but went back to other places to preach. It will not matter for soon He will reign as King. David did eventually go back to Israel where he then ruled as king.

**1Sm. 30:** David's home in Philistine territory is destroyed and the people taken prisoner. David battles the Philistines who did it and wins. He returns with everything that was his, and divides it out among those who were faithful to him, even if they had not been in the actual battle. This is similar to the parable Jesus tells about the landowner who pays everyone the same amount for different amounts of work. Jesus also battles the legions of evil and wins back all that is His. All the faithful receive the reward of heaven with the King of kings. Note that in vs. 7-8 David wears an ephod and prays. This is a priestly role. So David has now been a priest and will be king. I don't know if back in Chapter 19 he was in a prophetic state, but that would have filled all what Jesus was, in being priest, prophet and king. This would still be just a foreshadowing because Jesus is the fulfillment of all three of these roles.

**1Sm. 31:** The Philistines kill most of Saul's sons and Saul also dies, but these are only temporary wins by the forces of evil. But the old is gone, that is why the church starts the next chapter as a second book. It was originally one book.

## THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

**2Sm. 1:** At the report of Saul's death, David shows his respect for this man of God even though he was a sinner and tried to kill him. He also shows his love for Jonathan, who was always faithful. This foreshadows the love that Jesus would have for the people of Israel and for His faithful followers, especially His beloved disciple, John.

**2Sm. 2:** This chapter starts with reports on the fighting between the people of Israel, who at this point are not following God or His anointed, David king of Judah. Vs. 16 is really strange as these 24 young men kill each other. They really needed to know who to follow. It might be a sign of 12 tribes (OT) and 12 apostles (NT) fighting to the death. All will die, but the followers of Jesus will rise.

**2Sm. 3:** Abner is insulted by Saul's son. Abner's response in vs. 8: "Am I a dog's head in Judah?" You have to have watched male dog's inability to control themselves sexually to understand this. Oddly enough we now expect our teenage boys to be like those dogs. Because of this insult Abner goes from being a general for Saul to lining up with David. He actually brings the people in the northern territories (Israel) in line with the south, Judah; which David already rules. Abner then dies for having killed someone during one of the many wars. It is a crazy story, but the chapter ends with the people starting to accept David as king. A reminder that life without Jesus is crazy.

**2Sm. 4:** This glee from some of David's followers in killing the sons of Saul, who they think of as the enemies of the king, is hard to understand since King David explicitly promised not to take revenge on Saul's descendants. But it is the kind of thing that happens when you don't listen to your King. So for many people, who don't really understand Jesus, "What Would Jesus Do" is simply what would I do?

**2Sm. 5:** David is made King of Israel. During the capture of Zion (vs. 6-9) there is mention of David being put against the blind and the lame. But notice that it seems to be written in terms of a perception that he would be against the blind and the lame, not that he really is. This same feeling was held by some Jews as they wondered why Jesus paid so much attention to the blind and the lame. David also defeats the Philistines because he listens to the Lord.

**2Sm. 6:** Vs. 6, "Uzzah reached out his hand to the ark of God to steady it, for the oxen seemed to be making it tip. But the Lord was angry with Uzzah; God struck him on that spot, and he died there before God." Remember that the Ark was designed so that no one would touch it. There were poles that were used to carry it, similar to carrying a coffin. Mary is the NT Ark that bore the Word of God in her womb. The Church believes that she too was designed not to be touched and remained a virgin throughout life. In vs. 10-11 the ark is taken back to Obededom. It is said that this is where Mary visited Elizabeth for three months. Vs. 11: "The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obededom the Gittite for three months, and the Lord blessed Obededom and his whole house."

Then David decides to try bring the ark to his city again. Michal is not impressed with her husband's behavior and pays the price by being childless. This is another sign of the old regime no longer bearing fruit for she is the daughter of Saul. In vs. 19 David has been celebrating the coming of the Ark of the Covenant and "distributed among all the people, to each man and each woman in the entire multitude of Israel, a loaf of bread, a cut of roast meat, and a raisin cake." I have been told that another translation of raisin cake would be wine cake. Then it would be bread and wine and meat.

**2Sm. 7:** I see this as one of the most powerful chapters in all the Bible. God makes a promise to David. It is one of the most important lines in the OT. Vs. 12-14, "I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. It is he who shall build a house for my name. And I will make his royal throne firm forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me." The people of David's time may have thought this referred to Solomon but we know now that Solomon was merely foreshadowing the real Son of God. Vs. 16, "Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever." David's kingdom will all but die out, but the Kingdom of God will last forever and Jesus is the one who makes it happen. Vs. 18, "Who am I" that all this is done for me shows that David had the right attitude before God, just as Elizabeth did when Mary visited her. David and Elizabeth both considered themselves servants and so would be unworthy of such blessings.

**2Sm. 8:** David wins wars and follows God's commands faithfully. Notice in vs. 4 all the horses are hamstrung for God doesn't want to win wars with them as weapons, for the people would start to think that it is horses and chariots that win wars and not God.

**2Sm. 9:** David keeps his promise to forgive the descendants of Saul and especially Jonathan. He even restores Meribbaal the son of Jonathan, not physically but financially. Saul and his descendants represent the people of Israel who are not forgotten.

**2Sm. 10:** David is insulted and wins a war against his enemies, but this whole chapter sounds more like some of the battles that we face day-to-day. Those who hate the Catholic Faith stand up against us and insult our best intentions and then blame us for everything. They side with others who hate us and get ready for battle, but most of the time they don't stand up well when we actually face them with courage.

**2Sm. 11:** One of the main points of the story comes in the beginning. Vs. 1, "At the turn of the year when kings go out on campaign, David sent out Joab along with his officers and the army of Israel, and they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. David, however, remained in Jerusalem." In other words David was being lazy and in his idle time gets into trouble. David's affair with Bathsheba is an example of why we can't save ourselves. The lowest to the greatest need God's grace and forgiveness. No other human but Jesus is ever going to be able to show us the way. I use this story a lot to exemplify the idea that authority changes the normal concepts of adultery and rape. David's actions with Bathsheba would seem like adultery. It is actually rape because she had no way or saying no to him. With his authority he would ignore it. This is why people in authority, who have sexual contact with those they are supposed to be serving, are committing rape. It is why the priest's abuse scandal is so horrible.

**2Sm. 12:** Nathan, the prophet, confronts King David with his sin. Vs. 5-6, “David grew very angry with that man and said to Nathan: “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this merits death! He shall restore the ewe lamb fourfold because he has done this and has had no pity.”” When Nathan points out that David is the man, he realizes that he cannot repay what he has done. He is at God’s mercy, which is where we all are. David seeks that mercy, but a price must be paid. But with all the misery that David has caused, God brings something good from it. David and Bathsheba conceive Solomon. David is not foreshadowing Jesus in these last two chapters, he is just like us in sin.

## **THE BOOK OF PSALMS**

**Psalm 129:** Vs. 2, “Upon my back the plowers plowed, as they traced their long furrows.” Think of the scourging at the pillar that Jesus went through, and to a lesser degree, what we all feel when family life and earthly hardships make us know that we need to be saved by the Lord. Vs. 8 gives a blessing that the bad guys won’t receive. It is the Oscar Meyer blessing song: “The blessing of the Lord be upon you! We bless you in the name of the Lord!”

**Psalm 130:** This one of my favorites. Vs. 3, “If you, Lord, mark our sins, Lord, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness and so you are revered.” This psalm speaks to the love of a God who is Father and redeemer. He is there when we are at our worst.

**Psalm 131:** This psalm is certainly a continuation of the last one’s theme. Vs. 1-2, “I do not busy myself with great matters, with things to sublime for me. Rather, I have stilled my soul, hushed it like a weaned child.” This is not “don’t worry, be happy.” It is a calmness that comes from knowing the Father has things covered as we go about our work.

**Psalm 132:** Jesus is praying that God will not forget His anointed one. Because of His promise to David, an everlasting kingdom must come but it seems that even Jesus was feeling insecure.

**Psalm 133-4:** Two psalms that express love of God the Father.

**Psalm 135:** In this psalm Jesus praises the Lord but is more explicit in why, for it reminds us of God’s mighty deeds as He brought the chosen people to the Promised Land. Vs. 15-18 speak of the “idols of the nations” and how worthless they are. Jesus speaks of this again in Matt. 13.

**Psalm 136:** A history lesson and prayer of praise that is a reminder for us to count our blessings. One of those blessings is that you are finished reading Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers so you know the more obscure references mentioned here.

## THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK

**Mk. 10:32-52:** Starting in vs. 32 Jesus predicts his death and resurrection a third time. James and John don't get the sacrifice stuff but Jesus clarifies it. Notice that Mark does not bring their mother into the story like Matthew did. It is less embarrassing for these young men. The cure of Bartimaeus, starting in vs. 46, is sign of how all disciples could see better if they had faith in Him. That happened in Jericho which is on the way south, heading to Jerusalem.

**Mk. 11:** Then Jesus leads them in to Jerusalem and we have the Palm Sunday scene. In vs. 10 we see that they want the kingdom of David to be reinstated with Jesus. It is the right idea, but they are thinking too small.

Vs. 12 is the cursing of the fig tree. Then Mark inserts the cleansing of the temple as meat for this Scripture sandwich. Jesus cleans out the old, for He is the new. Then they notice the fig tree is dead. The kingdom of David is superseded with the eternal kingdom that was promised. Then He says faith can move mountains. I keep trying to move mountains with my faith. Vs. 27 starts the reaction of the chief priests. This is no longer the Pharisees. We are in the big city now. These are the bigshots. Jesus backs them off also.

**Mk. 12:** The parable of the vineyard continues the theme of Jesus' upcoming Passion. Vs. 13-17, the question of paying taxes sets the stage for how the Jewish bigwigs are going to get the authority to kill Jesus, which is through Rome. Vs. 18-27, goes the next step, life after death. Jesus knows he is going to die. This question of what will come after the resurrection is that step. Vs. 25, "When they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but they are like the angels in heaven." Angels don't get married for they aren't going to have kids. Vs. 28-34 is much shorter than Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. Mark just gives the two great commandments as the path to the kingdom of God. This presentation to the scribe is a reminder that Jesus did not give each of His teachings only once. I imagine that the apostles would have heard many of His teachings many times.

Vs. 35-37 is confusing but it becomes clearer if you keep track of when the word lord starts with a capital letter. David is told to sit at God's right hand, while God smites David's enemies. So how can the messiah sit at God's right hand? By being a son of David. Also realize that this quote is from Psalm 110 which also says in vs. 5: "At your right hand is the Lord, who crushes kings on the day of wrath, who, robed in splendor, judges nations, crushes heads across the wide earth..." So David's son will be glorious.

Back in vs. 34 Jesus said that one scribe was close to the Kingdom of Heaven. In vs. 38-40 he gives a warning to the apostles to beware of them for they put on a show but don't live authentic faith. That is a good warning for all of us. In vs. 41-44, the poor widow gives everything for the sake of the kingdom and Jesus says she will be rewarded. That is the opposite of the scribes.

**Mk. 13:** First Jesus predicts the end of the temple buildings, then He explains its meaning to the four apostles that are present. In vs. 9 He says they should watch out for themselves. In other words, do not try to save the old stuff, for they must make sure (vs. 10) “the gospel must first be preached to all nations.” The warnings continue in vs. 14 that seem to be geared more for the rest of the crowd. They too must be vigilant, for in vs. 26 we hear that they will see “the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory...” In vs. 28-31, the lesson of the fig tree lets us know that there will be signs that make sense for today’s lessons, but not what the final signs will be. Vs. 32 explains that only the Father knows those signs so we must each be vigilant. Those who are constantly looking out for when the end of the world is coming, may end up falling in a pit because they do not watch out for what is right in front of them.