

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
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SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)

MONDAY

OPEN

I am so angry. Have you ever felt that way? You're not angry at what someone has done against you. You're angry because something is absolutely wrong, because it is destructive. Do you think you shouldn't feel that way? O beloved, we should be angry about the things that God is angry about. And that's what we'll look at today.

PART ONE

Well beloved, we're on 1 Samuel, chapter 11, and we're going to see today how the Spirit of God makes Saul angry and why. Remember now, Saul has been chosen before the children of Israel. His name has been taken by lot and they know that he is to be the king, the king that they asked for. Remember God has put valiant men whose hearts He's touched to come along side Saul. But as we saw in 1 Samuel, chapter 10, verse 27, "...certain worthless men said, 'How can this one deliver us?' And they despised him, and [they] did not bring him any present. But he kept silent. Now Nahash the

Ammonite came up and besieged Jabesh-gilead...;”(1Samuel 10:27-11:1a) Now where is Jabesh-gilead? You know that I’m into having you know your geography, don’t you. Well, if you come up from the Dead Sea and you come up about 5/8 of the way or maybe a little bit farther and you’re headed north towards the Sea of Galilee, you’re going to come to the Jabbok River. All right, then if you go on just south of the Sea of Galilee there’s the Yarmuck River, Y-a-r-m-u-k River. Those are two important rivers for you to know. All right, Jabesh-gilead is half way between the Jabbok River and the Yarmuck River. Now these are Ammonites that are coming up. Now the Ammonites live south of the Jabbok River, okay. They live south of the Jabbok River and they live east of the Jordan River. Where did they live? They live in present day Jordan. Does that help you? All right, now present day Jordan goes all the way on up north, but they’re coming up over the Jabbok River and they are coming to Jabesh-gilead to attack the inhabitants of that place. And it says in verse 1: “...and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, ‘Make a covenant with us and we will serve you.’”(11:1b) In other words, you know, you’re besieging us. Quit besieging us, quit, quit mounting guard around the city. Make an agreement with us. Make a solemn binding agreement with us and we will serve you. Now they weren’t supposed to do that. They weren’t supposed to make any covenants with any foreigners, because a covenant is a solemn binding agreement. And they weren’t to serve anybody but God. But anyway, this is their way out of the problem, except God has another way. I love it. “But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, ‘I will make it with you on this condition....,’”(1Samuel 11:2a) I will make it, what, a covenant. Now remember one of the things that I’m teaching you is to mark key repeated words throughout the text and every book of the Bible has its own set of key repeated words. But the Bible as a whole has a set of key repeated words. And anytime you see the word covenant you need to mark. Now I’m just going to tell you how I do it. I color it red because to make a covenant means to cut a covenant. In other words, there is a shedding of blood. And then I put yellow around it and I box it in, in yellow because God is the sovereign administrator of all the

covenants. So whenever covenant's made, that solemn binding agreement, if it's not kept, then God's going to call you into account. So I mark covenant, but also remember when we mark key repeated words we want to mark the pronouns that refer to that. So in verse 2 when Nahash says this, "...I will make it...[a covenant] with you on this condition..." Now listen to this guy; "...that I will gouge out the right eye of every one of you, thus I will make it a reproach on all Israel." (11:2b) Sure I'll make an agreement with you; I'm going to take the right eye of every single one of you and you will go around with an empty socket in your right eye and it will be a reproach on you. Now this makes me mad. And it made Saul mad. I mean this is cruelty. This is just plain cruelty. Verse 3: "[And] The elders of Jabesh said to him, 'Let us alone for seven days, that we may send messengers throughout the territory of Israel. Then, if there['s] no one to [come to] deliver us, we will come out to you.'" (11:3) Seems strange to me, but this is what they said. "Then the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and spoke these words in the hearing of the people..." (11:4a) Gibeah of Saul; now your ears ought to perk up if you were listening to the last program, because Gibeah is Saul's hometown, and so it's Gibeah of Saul. Now this is quite a distance south. Remember Gibeah is just slightly northwest of the Dead Sea, so it's not a terribly long trip, but it's a good size trip. So they know that Saul's the king and that he's going to be anointed the king that he's been chosen by God. They want a king to go out before them, so they send messengers to Gibeah of Saul, "...and spoke these words in the hearing of the people, and all the people lifted up their voices and wept." (11:4b) I mean, what are they looking at? If no one comes to their defense all these people in Jabesh-gilead are going to go around with empty sockets. I mean it's going to be gross. And so when this happens it says, "Now behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen, and he said, 'What['s] the matter with the people that they weep?' So they related to him the words of the men of Jabesh. Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul mightily when he heard these words, and he became very angry." (11:5-6) And you can understand why. I mean absolutely indignant. But now what God wants you to

understand is this indignation was not just born in Saul's soul. It was from God's soul. I mean this made God angry. And so God wants you to hear and to see and to understand that the Spirit of God is the one that is causing the anger. It is a righteous anger. It is an anger, now watch; it is an anger that provokes us to action. When you see the word, any reference to the Spirit of God, you need to mark it. And I've told you this before, but just in case you all be patient with me. We've got some new listeners. Aren't you glad? This is where you are ministering with us and you're helping us reach others. So whenever you mark God, I use a triangle. I draw it in purple cause it's a royal color. When I mark the Spirit of God I just take the bottom part of the triangle, the flat part at the bottom and the left hand angle and just come up and then connect it with a cloud, and that's the way I mark the Spirit of God. And then I color it yellow cause yellow's my color for God. All right, so we have marked the fact that the Spirit of God has come upon Saul mightily and he became very angry. I want you to know that the other day I became very angry and very, very grieved and very, very sorrowful. I groaned. Why? Because my grandson John, who's in college came to me and the doorbell rang, and I was studying, and the door opens and it's John. He comes in and he says I just want you to see this article. It's an article that came out in the campus newspaper. And when he handed that to me, I'm telling you I was grieved, absolutely grieved, and then I was angry. And I know that that sorrow did not just originate with me, but it came from the Spirit of God. And I know that the anger came from God. You say well for heaven sakes, what did you read? Well the headline says this: "National Group Encourages Students to Vote and Have Sex." And this is what it says... "Looking for a reason to vote? Some students are more than happy to give you one." This is a quote now, and it says: "...I gathered a bunch of Columbia, Bernard, and Harvard grads together. We all thought about what we could do to help the political process. We decided that the best way to do it was to encourage people to vote and have sex afterwards...." This is when I was grieved. Then as I read on I thought this makes me angry. And it makes me angry because what this group is doing is they are leading a group of people straight to the

pit of hell. You say, wait a minute. Well you listen and then you decide. The organization, in the ancient tradition of liastrata brings sex and politics together. The organization core is made up of nine Columbia, Bernard and Harvard graduates, whose aim is to send 100,000 first time voters to the polls in the November elections...” Now listen, this is 100,000 people that they want to reach. What do they want them to do? “...After the polls close participants will attend a party where if all goes well, they will meet someone with whom to head home. I think a lot of people out there have a real desire to vote and a real desire to have sex, but leading up to both of those things can be a lot of work. We’re just facilitating the process so that it’s easy to vote and easy to have sex right afterwards....” (quote from Echo) Now what these people do is when they sign up on this website, they pledge to have sex with a voter on election night and to withhold sex from non-voters. They can sign up to host a party on the website or they can find out about parties already taking place in their area. What is going on? What these people don’t realize is look, if I am a fornicator, if I am an adulterer, then Ephesians 5, 1 Corinthians, chapter 6 and Galatians, chapter 5 all tell me I have no inheritance in the kingdom of God. In other words, a person goes to hell because they don’t have Jesus. But when we entice people to sin then we lead them into greater captivity. It’s distressing and we’ll talk about it more when I come back.

PART TWO

Welcome back beloved. I hope that your blood in a sense is boiling in righteous indignation at what we just heard about this group of college students that decide that they’re going to get people to vote by telling them vote and then have sex. They signed up 1000 people to do this in the first week, to go to vote and then that evening, celebrate it by having sex. Do you realize that it is worse than gouging out their eye? It is worse than gouging out their eye, why? Because you know the Bible says in 1 Corinthians, chapter 6 that when we commit immorality we sin against our own body.

Sexual immorality does something to a person. It puts a scar, it puts a lust there that is very, very hard to control. Jesus, in Matthew, chapter 5 in the Sermon on the Mount was telling the people. He says, “You have heard...,” in verse 27, “...that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery...;’”(Matthew 5:27) Why? Well we know from the Beatitudes God wants us to be pure in heart. He says, “...but I say to you that everyone who looks on a woman...,” who keeps on looking at a woman, in the present tense in the Greek, habitual action, “...[to] lust for her has...committed adultery with her [already] in his heart.”(5:28) Now listen to what He says about this sin. Listen to what He says, “[And] If you’re right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you [‘that one of the parts of your body perish,’] than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”(5:29) It says, “If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you...it is better [‘that one of the parts of your body perish’] than for your whole body to go...to hell.”(5:30) In other words no adulterer has any inheritance in the kingdom of God. And so what He’s saying is whatever is causing you to do that get rid of it before you end up in hell. In other words, get rid of your eye; get rid of your hand. Now He doesn’t mean it literally; He’s trying to make a point. But even as I read that and as I think about 1 Samuel, chapter 11 and Nahash saying you know, we’ll make a covenant with you. We won’t take your city. We’ll let you live as long as each one of you lets us gouge out your right eye, so that it’ll be a reproach for all of Israel. Just recently I stood in my Bible study and, and we have a Bible study every Tuesday morning, and you are so welcome to come and to visit us and, and a gal did. And she stood before me, and I’m not going to tell you the exact number of children, but she had over six. And then she told me that she was a widow and her husband committed suicide. And I said, what happened, because my first husband committed suicide. And she said he was caught in pornography. He was caught in pornography and he couldn’t break the hold and he took his life. He needed counseling; he needed help. The Spirit of God gets angry at anything that mars us, anything that destroys us, anything that distorts the image of God in us. It is no

wonder that in 1 Samuel 11:6 that "...the Spirit of God came upon Saul mightily when he heard these words..." when he heard the people weeping, "...and he became angry. He took a yoke of oxen...[he] cut them in pieces...[he] sent them throughout the territory of Israel by the hand[s] of the messengers saying, 'Whoever does not come out after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done to [these] oxen....'"(1Samuel 11:6-7a) In other words, boys, we're going to war. And if you don't come with me, you're going to be like these oxen. We're going to get you also. It says then the dread of the Lord. I want you to see God's behind all this. "...Then the dread of the Lord fell on the people, and they came out as one man. [And] He numbered them in Bezek; and the sons of Israel were 300,000, and the men of Judah 30,000."(11:7b-8) I mean you've got 330,000 people coming to war. "[And] They said to the messengers who had come, 'Thus you shall say to the men of Jabesh-gilead, 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you [shall] have deliverance.'" So the messengers went and told the men of Jabesh; and they were glad. Then the men of Jabesh said, 'Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you.'"(11:9-10) Now the men of Jabesh are saying this to Nahash the Ammonite: okay, our seven days are up. We're coming out to you. You can do what seems good to you. And it happened: "The next morning [that] Saul put the people in three companies..." He's got all these people now, "...and they came into the midst of the camp at the morning watch..."(11:11a) I mean Nahash is there; it is early in the morning. All the Ammonites are there and Saul, I love it, does a three-prong attack. I mean, and he comes at those people, "...and [they] struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day..."(11:11b) In other words, until it was high noon. And it came about that, "...Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together..." I love it. "...Then the people said to Samuel, 'Who is he that said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death.'"(11:11c-12) Hey, we heard those grumblers. We heard those certain worthless men that are mentioned in 1 Samuel 10:27. We heard them muttering saying how can this man deliver us? We heard them despise him.

Bring them out, let's put them to death. Now watch Saul again. I love it. It says, "But Saul said, 'Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has accomplished deliverance in Israel.'"(11:13) Now what I want you to see is this: I want you to see that the anger that Saul felt was anger from God. It was a righteous anger. But Saul did not let anger against these men, these worthless men that accused him of being unable to deliver them; he didn't let that control him. And see there's a righteous anger and there's an unrighteous anger. The righteous anger is when it has to do with something of protecting God and protecting others. The unrighteous anger is when you hurt me, you hurt me good and you're going to get it. No, that's not, Saul's not going to have any part of that. I love it. You're supposed to mark death. Remember you're supposed to put a black tombstone over it. Just do it with a black pen. You don't need to color it black. But you've got the tombstone and you know. "...Saul said, 'Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has accomplished deliverance in Israel.' Then Samuel said to the people, 'Come and let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there.' So all the people went to Gilgal..."(11:13-15a) find it on your map. "...there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they also offered sacrifices of peace offerings before the Lord; and there Saul and all the men...rejoiced greatly."(11:15b) O beloved, listen, when God stirs your spirit with a righteous indignation, with an anger, then you and I need to stand. We need to stand and let God's voice be heard. We need to do it with teaching. We need to do it with longsuffering, with patience, but we need to stand against unrighteousness. If you see anything like you just saw, you need to let the people know that there is a holy God in heaven and that He has to judge sin. He has to judge it. And that God doesn't want them to perish, and that they need to repent, they need to have a change of mind and they need to come to the Lord. And when you do that beloved, you're doing God's work God's way. So don't be apathetic; stand. But stand in the character of a holy God who hates sin.