

Discussion Primer

What are some examples of the communal expression of divine justice in Scripture? Examples of the individual expression of divine justice in Scripture? What do you tend to gravitate towards in your understanding of justice? Why is both needed in our approach to justice?

When Mess Meets Mercy: the Gospel of 1 Samuel

“Sin and Consequences”: 1 Samuel 15:1-35

**Big Idea:** The consequences of sin can only be overcome through repentance and faith in the obedience of King Jesus.

**Sermon Outline**

* + - Sin is self-deceptive.
      * It exaggerates the self’s importance (v. 20)
      * It seeks the self-enrichment (v. 19)
    - Sin is self-deceptive.
      * We try to excuse it: “I have done good things” (v. 20); “I am just like everyone else” (vv. 15, 21); I did what seemed reasonable (v. 15); “I did this for God” (v. 21); “I was afraid” (v. 24)
      * We try to conceal it.
    - Sin is self-destructive.
      * It grieves God’s heart (v. 10; 35)
      * It guarantees God’s justice (vv. 28; 33)

Sermon Outline

Intersection: How does the text intersect with our lives?

* In what ways have you witness sin exaggerating the self’s importance and/or seeking the self’s enrichment?
* Why may Saul’s actions be qualified as imperialistic? What do the Lord’s instructions not qualify as imperialistic? (Israel was not to profit in any way from the Amalekites destruction)
* What excuse do you tend to give for yourself most often? For others?
* Why is it encouraging to know that the Lord feels deeply while resolving to act firmly in accord with His character and word?
* How does God uphold his justice and extend mercy simultaneously through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-35 and explore together what the passages reveal about:

1) The character and purposes of God? 4) Our identity in Christ?

2) The fallen human condition? 5) Our obedience to Christ?

3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? 6) Our relationship to others

Replicable Questions

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study.

Is there . . .

• a command to obey? • a beauty to behold? • a mission to fulfill?

• a promise to claim? • a truth to believe? • an example to follow?

• a sin to repent of? • a service to render? • a person to tell?

Application: “So, what now?”

Sermon Scripture References

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 17:15-16; Matthew 10:28; Genesis 6:5-6

Sermon Description

King Saul is the Walter White of the Old Testament. Walter White is a character from the television series titled Breaking Bad, which chronicles the moral decline of a modest family man. A series of small compromises soon reaps major consequences. The show illustrates well the attractive, deceptive, and destructive nature of sin.

In 1 Samuel, Saul is first presented as a modest young man who served his family well (9:1-3). After being anointed as king, Saul begins to make a series of small compromises that reap major consequences. He “breaks bad,” so to speak. In chapter 15, his brokenness is on full display when the Lord formally rejects Him as king. Sin reaps major consequences. Israel will now need a new king, one who would obey the Lord’s command and lead God’s people well. The next king, David, would be good, but he would not be good enough to help God’s people overcome what ails them most. The consequences of sin can only be overcome through repentance and faith in the perfect and sacrificial obedience of King Jesus.

Missional Community Study & Discussion Guide

Week of May 2, 2021

Leader Tips