



The Lord Has Worked

13th in the “God’s King” Series

1 Samuel 11

August 28, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God reinforces his role as the King of kings and teaches us about his rule over us today.

The Text: 1 Samuel 11

¹Then Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead, and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, “Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you.” ²But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, “On this condition I will make a treaty with you, that I gouge out all your right eyes, and thus bring disgrace on all Israel.” ³The elders of Jabesh said to him, “Give us seven days’ respite that we may send messengers through all the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to save us, we will give ourselves up to you.” ⁴When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, they reported the matter in the ears of the people, and all the people wept aloud. ⁵Now, behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen. And Saul said, “What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?” So they told him the news of the men of Jabesh. ⁶And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled. ⁷He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying, “Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!” Then the dread of the Lord fell upon the people, and they came out as one man. ⁸When he mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. ⁹And they said to the messengers who had come, “Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-gilead: ‘Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have salvation.’” When the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh, they were glad. ¹⁰Therefore the men of Jabesh said, “Tomorrow we will give ourselves up to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you.” ¹¹And the next day Saul put the people in three companies. And they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together. ¹²Then the people said to Samuel, “Who is it that said, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Bring the men, that we may put them to death.” ¹³But Saul said, “Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has worked salvation in Israel.” ¹⁴Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom.” ¹⁵So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

- 1) God confirms Saul as king when he works through him to save Israel from an enemy (vv. 1-15).
- 2) 1 Samuel 11 projects the ways God works in the church today through the New Covenant.
 - (a) The Church’s Savior (v. 3).
 - (b) The Church’s Spirit (v.6).
 - (c) The Church’s Unity (v.7).
 - (d) The Church’s Worship (vv. 14-15).

Response

We are the people of God’s Kingdom, citizens empowered by the same Spirit of God that rushed upon Saul. Let us also trust and serve King Jesus as the Spirit-unified people of God.

Sunday Text Questions

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- 1) Starter Question: How does the Holy Spirit work in the specifics of a Christian's life?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How do vv. 1-4 set the context for the conflict between the Ammonites and the Israelites, and what details stand out to you?
- 4) How does the Spirit of God affect Saul and work in and through him after he heard of the threat from the Ammonites (v. 6)?
- 5) If the Spirit worked in such ways in some of God's people in the Old Covenant (Testament), how does the Spirit work now in all of God's people in the New Covenant?
- 6) What did you think of Saul's graphic threat to the rest of his people to join the battle against the Ammonites (v. 7), and was that appropriate or inappropriate?
- 7) How should Christians think biblically about the military violence displayed by God's people toward the Ammonites (v. 11)?
- 8) Even though Israel was victorious through the leadership of king Saul, how does this text make clear that it was God who did the work (note especially v. 13)?
- 9) How did the Lord unify his people at the end of v. 7, and how should this kind of unity be reflected today in the church, the body of Christ?
- 10) Why do you think God would put this story in his holy Scripture for us to read and understand?

Further study this week: Passages that describe the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Covenant: Galatians 3:14 (Mon); Ephesians 1:13-14 (Tues); Ephesians 4:1-3 (Wed); Galatians 5:16-25 (Thurs); 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 (Fri).