



It May Be that The Lord Will Work for Us

16th in the “God’s King” Series

1 Samuel 14

September 25, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God rebukes our arrogant plan-making and commands us to seek and submit to his will.

The Text: 1 Samuel 14

⁶ Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few.” ... ⁸ Then Jonathan said, “Behold, we will cross over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them. ⁹ If they say to us, ‘Wait until we come to you,’ then we will stand still in our place, and we will not go up to them. ¹⁰ But if they say, ‘Come up to us,’ then we will go up, for the Lord has given them into our hand. And this shall be the sign to us.” ... ²³ So the Lord saved Israel that day. ...

²⁴ And the men of Israel had been hard pressed that day, so Saul had laid an oath on the people, saying, “Cursed be the man who eats food until it is evening and I am avenged on my enemies.” So none of the people had tasted food. ²⁷ But Jonathan had not heard his father charge the people with the oath, so he put out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it in the honeycomb and put his hand to his mouth, and his eyes became bright. ... ³⁷ And Saul inquired of God, “Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you give them into the hand of Israel?” But he did not answer him that day. ³⁸ And Saul said, “Come here, all you leaders of the people, and know and see how this sin has arisen today. ³⁹ For as the Lord lives who saves Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die.” ... ⁴⁵ Then the people said to Saul, “Shall Jonathan die, who has worked this great salvation in Israel? Far from it! As the Lord lives, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day.” So the people ransomed Jonathan, so that he did not die.

1) This text contrasts the two ways Christians might seek and respond to the will of God.

2) Christians are expected to obey God’s revealed will and pursue wisely God’s hidden will for their lives.

Deuteronomy 29:29: “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

- God’s Revealed Will – what God has already made known that we are to follow and obey (in Scripture).
- God’s Hidden Will – what God will bring about that is not foretold or revealed (in retrospect).

James 4:13-17: ¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Test Case: A new job (questions to ask):

- 1) Does this job cause me to disobey God’s revealed will in Scripture?
- 2) Have I asked my family, friends, pastor, or others who know me for their insights and wisdom?
- 3) Am I willing to accept what may come from this new job, unseen things I could not plan for?
- 4) Can I hold this new job loosely, offering this decision and my life to the eternal God?

Response

We confess, Lord, that our life is a mist. If it is your will, “we will live and do this or that.”

Sunday Text Questions

1 Samuel 14

September 25, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Starter Question: Have you ever received a “sign” through which God told you to do (or not to do) something?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Read vv. 6-15. What “sign” did Jonathan think would reveal God’s intentions for the situation?
- 4) How does Jonathan’s statement in v. 6, “It may be that the Lord will work for us,” leverage the pursuit of a “sign” in a biblically appropriate way?
- 5) Should Christians today who now have the word of God be asking the Lord for “signs” to determine his will, and if so, how would such “signs” be recognized and verified?
- 6) Read vv. 24-30, 36-45. What went wrong when Saul made the oath (v. 24)?
- 7) If an “oath” is a formal calling upon God to confirm a decision, is such a practice approved by Scripture or wise for Christians today?
- 8) Read Deuteronomy 29:29. How does this text teach us about God’s *revealed* will (in Scripture) and God’s *hidden* or secret will (in retrospect)?
- 9) Read James 4:13-17. What does this text teach us about seeking and submitting to the will of God?
- 10) What guidelines or principles do all these texts teach you in preparation for the next big decision you need to make?

Further study this week: Passages on the will of God: James 1:5 (Mon); Proverbs 3:5-6 (Tues); Hebrews 13:20-21 (Wed); Psalm 119:105 (Thurs); Micah 6:8 (Fri).