

WHOSE KINGDOM AM I SEEKING?

SEEKING GOD'S KINGDOM • PART 29 • 1 SAMUEL 31

1 HOW HAS GOD BEEN FORMING US THROUGHOUT 1 SAMUEL?



TRUST HIS NEARNESS

Even when all is stripped away, He is near.



LISTEN FOR HIS VOICE

Through His Word, prayer, His Spirit, and the voices of wisdom.



SURRENDER OUR FEARS

Hannah, Samuel, and David knew the LORD's heart and trusted Him.



KNOW HIS HEART

The LORD looks at the heart.

1 SAMUEL 16:7

"The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

MAIN TAKEAWAY

No matter what comes our way, the question remains the same:

WHOSE KINGDOM ARE WE SEEKING?

The answer reveals the direction of our hearts.

2 SAUL'S STORY

- God chose Saul.
- God empowered Saul.
- God used Saul.
- Fear distorted his reality.
- Fear magnified the threat.
- Fear eroded his trust.
- Saul drifted away.
- Saul sought his own kingdom.

3 DAVID'S STORY

- David faced hardship.
- David faced fear.
- David made mistakes.
- David strengthened himself in the LORD.
- David kept turning back toward God.
- David sought God's Kingdom.

HOW WILL OUR STORY BE REMEMBERED?

KEY SCRIPTURES



1 SAMUEL 16:7

The LORD looks at the heart.



1 SAMUEL 31

The end of Saul's story.



1 CHRONICLES 10:13-14

Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD.



1 SAMUEL 30:6

But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

5 HEART DIAGNOSTIC



When I'm scrolling social media...



When I'm spending money...



When I'm angry...



When I'm afraid...

Whose kingdom am I seeking?

4 THE CONTRAST David kept turning back toward the LORD, while Saul kept drifting away.

DAVID

Strengthened himself in the LORD

Inquired of the LORD

Lost everything and regained it

Families restored

Kingdom expanding

SAUL

Fell on his sword

Received silence

Had everything and lost it

Family destroyed

Kingdom collapsing

Seeking God's Kingdom — Going Deeper
Part 29 — "Whose Kingdom Am I Seeking?" — 6.21.26
Main Scripture: 1 Samuel 31

How has God been forming us throughout 1 Samuel?

1 God has been teaching us to trust His nearness	2 God has been teaching us to listen for His voice	3 God has been teaching us to surrender our fears	4 God has been showing us His heart
--	--	---	---

The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.
— 1 Samuel 16:7

→ **The End of Saul's Story — 1 Samuel 31:1–6**

- (v1–2) Samuel's prophecy is being fulfilled (1 Samuel 28:17-19)
- The contrast with David and Goliath is striking:
 - A young shepherd trusted the LORD | An aging king entered battle without Him
- (v3–4) Saul is critically wounded and chooses to fall on his own sword
- (v6) Saul's reign comes to an end as Saul, his sons, and his men die together.
- Fear slowly eroded Saul's trust in the LORD throughout his life.

→ **The Tragedy of Saul's Choices — 1 Samuel 31:7–10**

- Saul's death is tragic because God repeatedly gave him opportunities to trust Him
- (v7) Israelite towns were abandoned and occupied by the Philistines
- (v8–10) Saul's head and armor became trophies displayed by the Philistines
- The Philistines believed their gods had defeated the God of Israel
- (Lamentations 3:32–33) God does not willingly bring affliction or grief
 - Saul's judgment flowed from persistent rebellion.

→ **The Contrast Between Saul and David**

- Saul trusted his armor; David trusted the LORD
- Saul's trust in God eroded through fear; David continued learning to trust God
- David strengthened himself in the LORD; Saul fell on his sword
- David inquired of the LORD and received direction; Saul received silence
- Both men faced hardship, fear, and failure, but David kept turning back toward the LORD while Saul kept drifting away

→ **Whose Kingdom Are We Seeking?**

- Many competing "kingdoms" seek our allegiance (politics, money, stuff, status, etc)
- Fear can magnify threats and slowly erode our trust in the LORD
- The question "Whose kingdom am I seeking?" reveals the direction of our lives

→ **Main Takeaway:** No matter what comes our way, the question remains the same: Whose kingdom are we seeking? The answer reveals the direction of our hearts.