

The Nature of God's Kingdom

1 Samuel 22

1. Not built on Worldly Principles vs. 1-8

David was not "a king such as all the nations" (1 Samuel 8:11-17). Rather than David being surrounded by the wealthy and powerful, God chose the marginalized and malcontent people to become his support who David continues to lead to continual victory (ex: 1 Samuel 23:5; 27:8-9).

God has chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to inherit the kingdom of God (James 2:5), so that people will give God the credit for what has taken place rather than giving themselves the credit (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

Questions:

- a) Can you draw parallels between David's band of followers and the Church, both being havens for the outcasts and distressed?
- b) Read James 2:1-13. How should the church treat the outcast and distressed?
- c) Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. How are we to live so that the world knows it is only by God that we have victory in this world?

2. Never Failing is God's Word vs. 6-22

God's Word is reliable, authoritative, and will be effectively fulfilled. We observe this through the prophet Samuel's prophecy against the house of Eli (1 Samuel 2:27-36). In God's perfect timing this prophecy will be completely fulfilled; partially with the death of the Eli's priests of Nob, and then completely fulfilled with the removal of the last of Eli's line in 1 Kings 2:26-27, 35)

The important message, God will be faithful to his Word. This will bring comfort to those who live for Christ and cause for alarm for those who do not have Christ in their life.

Questions:

The death of the priests fulfills God's curse in 1 Samuel 2 when God promises to cut off Eli and his descendants. How would you explain to someone that even though this is God's judgment against Eli, Saul and Doeg is still morally responsible for their sinful actions in killing the priests? How should this example inform our understanding of the relationship between God's sovereignty and our responsibility? (Psalm 52)