

## **Facing Reality: Our Days Are Numbered**

### **1 Samuel 31**

#### **1. Living Well Leads to Dying Well**

How King Saul died is the result of the tragic choices he made in life. Although he had been anointed by Yahweh's prophet Samuel, and was empowered by the Spirit of Yahweh to guide and direct Saul as the new king of Israel (10:1, 10), Saul chose to not follow Yahweh's instructions; rejecting God's authority. Saul's shameful death is due to his shameful life.

Having a healthy understanding of our human frailty (Psalm 39:4–6) prepares us to not only honour God with our lives, but also to honour God in our death. As Apostle Paul writes, "as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:20-21)

#### **2. Life with God Leads to Hope for the Future**

Death is not the end of our story. Ancient Israel readers would have been filled with hope as they read 1 Samuel 31; with the anticipation of David becoming king, the ideal anointed one.

In the same way, we should read 1 Samuel 31 in a way that leads to hope for the future. Our promised Messiah that was to come from the line of David has given us the reason for hope; Jesus sacrifice on the cross has given us hope for eternity. (1 Cor. 15:54–57).

#### **Questions:**

- Take some time to reflect the life that Saul lived. List two important lessons you learned from how Saul chose to live his life?
- In what ways can we be like Saul? How does seeing Saul's tragic humiliation remind you of the consequences of not choosing to live well for the Lord?
- Read Luke 23:26-46 & John 19:25-30. As Jesus faced death, his death reflected the life He lived. Through observing Jesus, what does dying well look like? How does one honour God in their death? (Philippians 1:20-21)