



Priests KINGS & *Extraordinary* THINGS

Sermons in 1 Samuel

The Glory is Gone

1 Samuel 31, 2 Samuel 1

***Whither is fled the visionary
gleam?***

***Where is it now, the glory
and the dream?***

**Wordsworth, 1804
(from Great Ode)**

We read of the death of Saul and three of his four sons this week. David will soon ascend to power.

But today we have the chance to ponder a spectacularly wasted life. Saul had everything. He was strong and popular and wealthy. But, he was also insecure, and sinful and selfish. We must find a way to live that honors God, and invites His blessing, not His opposition!

1 Samuel

31 ¹Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

² And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul.

³ The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers.

**⁴ Then Saul said to his armor-bearer,
“Draw your sword, and thrust me
through with it, lest these uncircumcised
come and thrust me through, and
mistreat me.” But his armor-bearer
would not, for he feared greatly.
Therefore Saul took his own sword and
fell upon it.**

**⁵ And when his armor-bearer saw that
Saul was dead, he also fell upon his
sword and died with him.**

⁶ Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together.

⁷ And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and those beyond the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled. And the Philistines came and lived in them.

**1. Most warfare you
face is spiritual
warfare, that's why
walking in the Spirit
is crucial.**

1 Samuel

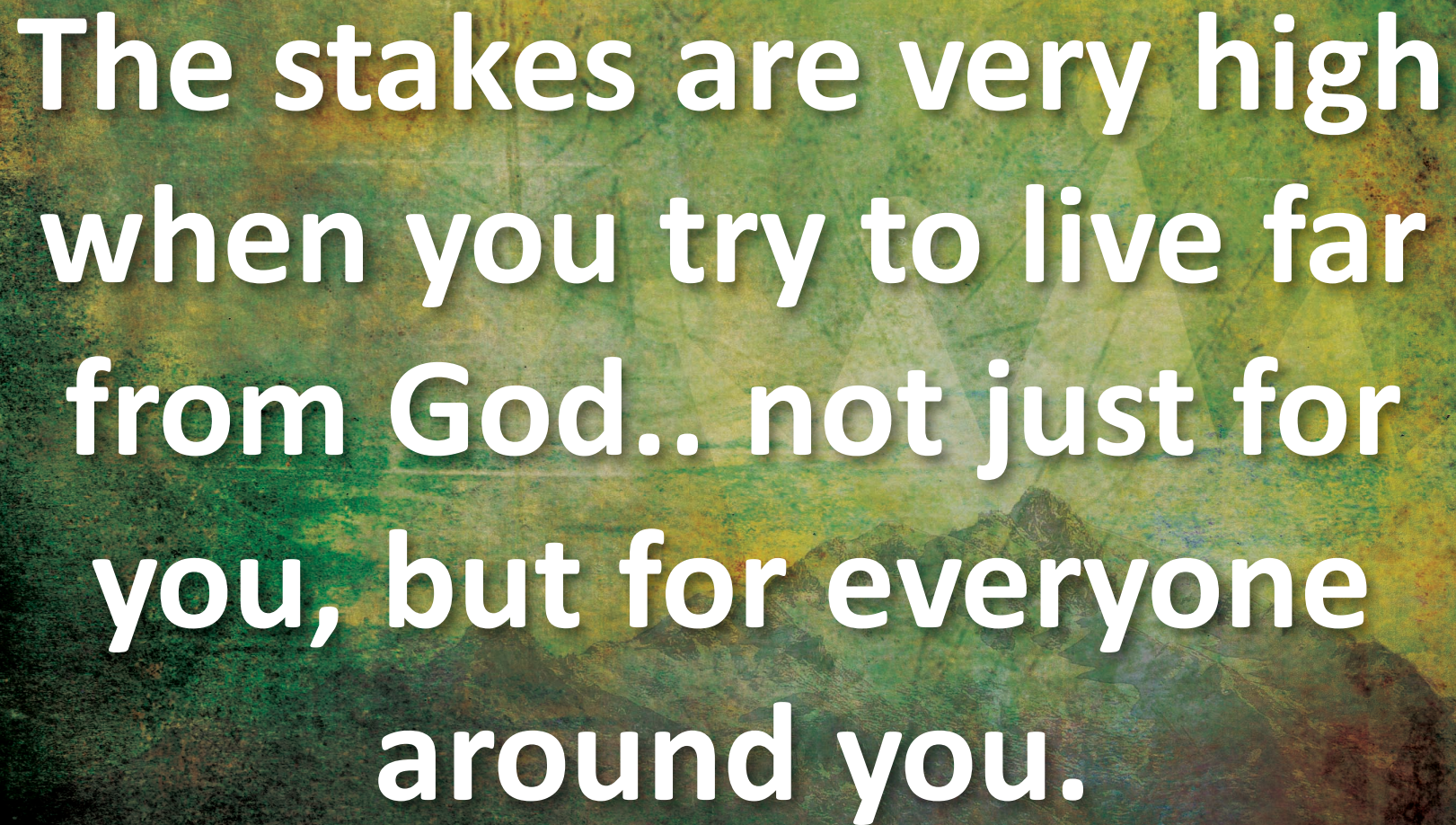
13 So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the Lord in that he did not keep the command of the Lord, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance.

14 He did not seek guidance from the Lord. Therefore the Lord put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.

(1 Chron. 10:13-14)

Saul struggled to
understand how to operate
by faith with obedience his
whole life, and it ultimately
caught up with him, as it
will with us.

1 Samuel



The stakes are very high
when you try to live far
from God.. not just for
you, but for everyone
around you.

1 Samuel

2 Sam. 1 ¹ After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag.

² And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage.

³ David said to him, “Where do you come from?” And he said to him, “I have escaped from the camp of Israel.”

⁴ And David said to him, “How did it go? Tell me.” And he answered, “The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead

11 Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him.

12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

2. David saw the seasons
of life as governed by a
sovereign God, so he had a
good sense of when to
mourn, pray and fast...

(Eccles. 3:1-15)

1 Samuel

¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹ What do workers gain from their toil?

¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race.

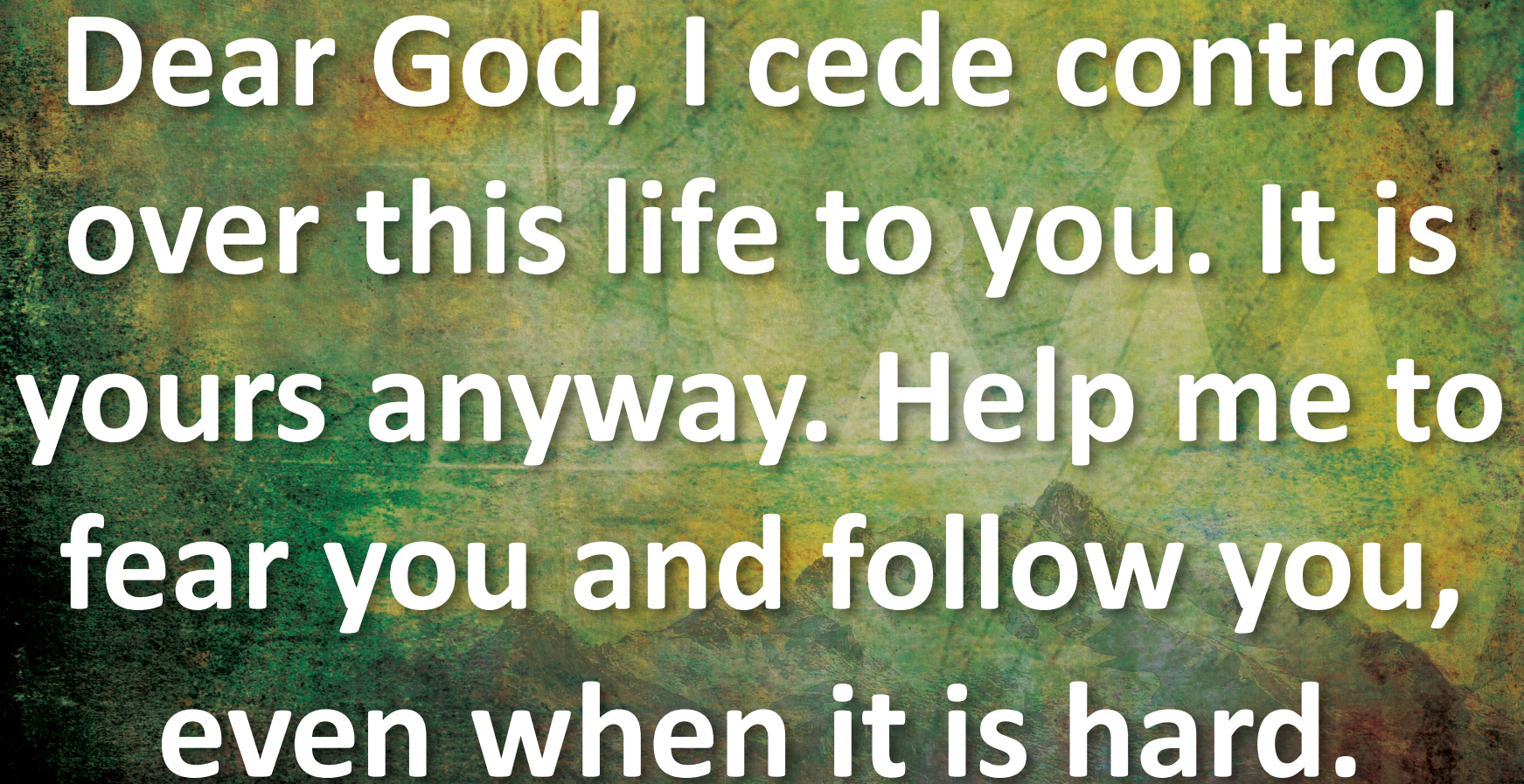
¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

**13 That each of them may eat and drink,
and find satisfaction in all their toil—this
is the gift of God.**

**14 I know that everything God does will
endure forever; nothing can be added to
it and nothing taken from it. God does it
so that people will fear him.**

(Ecclesiastes 3)



Dear God, I cede control
over this life to you. It is
yours anyway. Help me to
fear you and follow you,
even when it is hard.

1 Samuel

**17 And David lamented with this lamentation
over Saul and Jonathan his son...**

**19 “Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high
places!**

How the mighty have fallen!

**20 Tell it not in Gath,
publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon,
lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
lest the daughters of the uncircumcised
exult.**

**23 “Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles;
they were stronger than lions.**

**24 “You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet,
who put ornaments of gold on your
apparel.**

**25 “How the mighty have fallen
in the midst of the battle!**

27 “How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!”

David's lament was a powerful message to a worried nation:

- Don't give into the enemy in the midst of fear and grief...
- Honor those who lead and serve you, even if they are flawed...
- Live today with an eye on tomorrow...