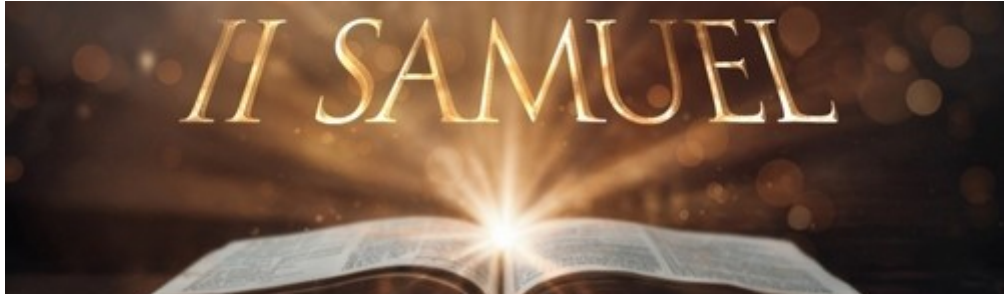


Let's Worship God

14th-19th September 2026

2 Samuel





Monday - 2 Samuel 23:8-39 - Your Service to the King is not Overlooked

We're not always good in the church at recognising people's service for God. The natural human reaction to not receiving any recognition for what we do, or for being criticised but never thanked, is to say: 'fine then, I'll not do it anymore'. But of course in the church, we're not actually doing what we do for other people. At least not primarily. It is true that we have the command: 'through love serve one another'. But ultimately our service is for God. And as Jesus puts it: "When you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" And yet at the same time, all over the Bible we have people who are recognised for their service to God.

If God himself wants to point out the faithful service of some of his people, we should do the same. And if your service to God is - wrongly - overlooked by God's people, don't let that consume you. But take comfort that your service isn't overlooked by God. We have yet another example of that in this second last chapter of second Samuel. This list in front of us contains the names of David's mighty men, as they're called in verse 8. Or his chief men as they're called in verse 13. They're his most trusted, most valiant warriors. There's a group of around 30 of them. With three in particular singled out as the most trusted 3. David was God's covenant king. And so to fight for David was to fight for the kingdom of God in the world. Just like we do today - though not with sword or spear but with the armour of God, as we fight sin, as we take the gospel into the world. And Jesus doesn't overlook the work of his servants.

One thing we need to realise about the people who served David in this chapter is that they did so at a time when serving him was far from the easy option. We see that here in verse 13. Because where is David there? He's in the cave of Adullam. And when was David living in the cave of Adullam? Way back in 1st Samuel 22. David had been anointed king by Samuel at that point. He was God's choice for king. But he wasn't yet on the throne. He wasn't yet publicly recognised as king. We're in a similar position today. Jesus IS King. But most people don't recognise that. Yet it's now that we're called to serve him. One day Jesus will split the skies and return. Every eye will see him. But it will be too late to start serving him then. Rather what will count is whether we served him when his cause wasn't popular.

Question

1. What can we learn from lists of names in the Bible?

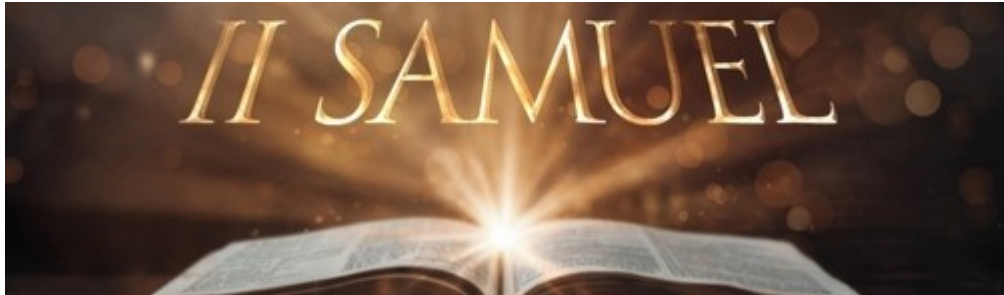
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God sees all we do for him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, Colossians 3:23

Praise: Psalm 72:1-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 23:13-17 - Service When It Feels Like A Waste

Probably the most well-known of the events recorded in this chapter is what we read in verses 14-17. Three of the chief men overhear David, and they go and break through the Philistine camp and get water and bring it back to David. And when he realises what they've done, and that they've risked their lives to get it, he won't drink it. He sees it as blood-water, because of what they've put on the line to get it for him. Psalm 72, speaking prophetically of Jesus, says that the blood of his people is precious in his sight. And it was the same for David. And so what does he do with this precious water? He pours it on the ground. He's pouring it out before the LORD. It's not an act of waste, but an act of worship. When all is said and done, the men who've risked their lives have nothing to show for what they've done. And yet a beautiful thing has happened. They've risked their lives for their king. David himself realises that he is not worthy of it, and he pours it out before the Lord as an act of worship.

If you think about it, we don't often have a lot to show for our service for God. Think about how we spend the Lord's Day. How we devote it to him. I'm sure we could all do a lot with a Sunday if we used it for ourselves. But what do we have to show after a day of worship and fellowship? Not a lot in tangible terms. Someone might look at it and say we're doing the equivalent of pouring water on the ground. But worship is never a waste.

And what about that day at home where you get nothing done, you mothers of young children? Not because you're lazy, but because the small people seem to be plotting against your every attempt to do anything! And maybe you think: I could be doing so much more than this. And yet at the end of that apparently unproductive day, those small people are still alive. They know they're safe. They've been disciplined when they've stepped out of line. They've been watching, they've been learning. They've been loved. They've been trained up a little bit more in the way they should go, as Proverbs 22:6 says.

When what you're doing is for Jesus, whether that's your worship or your unglamorous work for him, the world says: 'Why this waste?' Jesus says: "She has done a beautiful thing for me".

Question

1. How can we be encouraged that our service to God is not a waste?

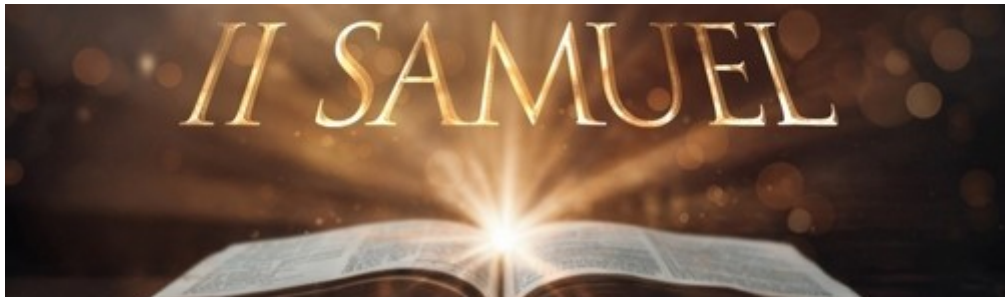
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that nothing we do for Christ is ever a waste.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, Colossians 3:23

Praise: Psalm 139:6-11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - 2 Samuel 23:11-23 - Service in an Unglamorous Situation

We're not all called to take on the enemy on glamorous battlefields. As if there is such a thing anyway. Here in verses 11 and 12 we have a man called Shammah who takes his stand in a plot of ground full of lentils. I'm sure there are people that we're all looking forward to meeting in heaven. People from the Bible, great missionaries and others from church history. But has anyone ever said: 'I can't wait to meet the guy who defended the lentil field?!' And yet lentil fields need defended. And God calls most of his followers to serve him in unglamorous situations.

Often, we'd rather not live and serve in a lentil field. But lentil fields need defended. Why? Because God's people need fed. And if the lentil field isn't there, they're going to go hungry. Jesus told Peter: 'feed my sheep'. He didn't say: only feed my sheep who live in what the world thinks are significant places.

Another reason to defend lentil fields is because if you lose them to the Philistines, it's very hard to get them back again. And the challenge is: Are we willing to serve God in a lentil field if that's where he calls us to serve him? Would we be more committed to the church if there were more people, a bigger budget, and more folk our own age? In verse 11 here, everyone else fled. Everyone else abandoned the lentil field. But Shammah stood his ground. And when the enemy is growing in strength, and humanly speaking prospects are small, people will do that. They'll say: I'm not going to invest my life in a lentil field. But Shammah did. Either he was going to kill the Philistines, or they were going to kill him. But he wasn't moving from that lentil field. Jesus said: "'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.'

One thing about small churches is that we lack the resources that bigger churches have. But down in verse 21 we have a man who didn't have resources. There's a handsome Egyptian who has a spear. And there's one of David's men called Benaiah, who only has a staff. But does Benaiah say 'he has a spear and I don't, so there's no point?' No, he takes what he has. He takes his staff, and he goes down and snatches the spear out of the Egyptian's hand. Then he kills the Egyptian with his own spear. Just as David had killed Goliath with Goliath's own sword. Just as Jesus at the cross used death itself to defeat death. No resources? So what. The cattle on a thousand hills belong to our God.

Question

1. What can we learn from Shammah?

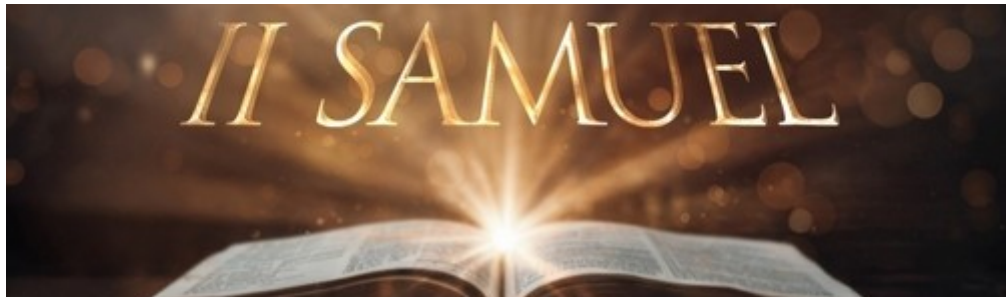
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that the Lord Jesus Christ has all the necessary resources.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, Colossians 3:23

Praise: Psalm 149:1-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - 2 Samuel 23:9-10- Getting on With the Work

Eleazar is a pretty obscure Bible character. And yet God noticed and highlighted what he did. Some commentators think that what verses 9 and 10 are describing are the aftermath of David killing Goliath. The picture would be that the rest of the troops in his contingent gave up pursuing the Philistines. They left him pursuing them alone. But he kept going until his hand clung to his sword. Charles Spurgeon, who has a great sermon on Eleazar, says: 'He was a man of marked individuality of character, a man who knew himself and knew his God, and did not care... to run away merely because they ran'. 'Everyone else is doing it' wasn't an argument with him. 'Everyone else is running away' So what?! 'No-one else is taking their responsibilities seriously' So what? God may have given us 10 talents. Or he may have given us 1 talent. But either way, on the day of judgement we will be called to answer for what we did with what God gave us, not to answer for what others did. Too many Christians spend all their time complaining about what other people are doing with their talents, rather than using their own. Eleazar just gets on with it.

Serving on your own or with very little help, brings its own temptations. As well as the temptation to discouragement, there's also the temptation to spend a lot of time blaming others for not playing their part. Perhaps we face the temptation to be despondent about the state of the church, whether the church in general, or our own church. But again, our responsibility is for ourselves. Our calling is to be faithful in the place God has put us, and in the role he's given us. Sometimes we perhaps need to remind ourselves that our responsibilities are not reduced by the laxness of others. There can be the feeling: 'Well if people around me aren't serving God wholeheartedly, there's no point in me doing it'. But surely the failures of others should lead us to strive harder, not to slacken off. Again, I find it hard to improve on Spurgeon: 'Are your fellow-Christians worldly? You should yourself become more spiritual and heavenly-minded. Are they sleepy? Be you the more awake. Are they lax? Be you the more strict. Are they unkind? Be you the more full of love. Set your watch all the more strictly because you see that others are overcome, and be you doubly diligent where you perceive that others are negligent. Dare, like Eleazar, to stand alone, and from the shortcomings of others gather motives for a nobler life.'

Question

1. What should we focus on if those around us are neglecting their responsibilities?

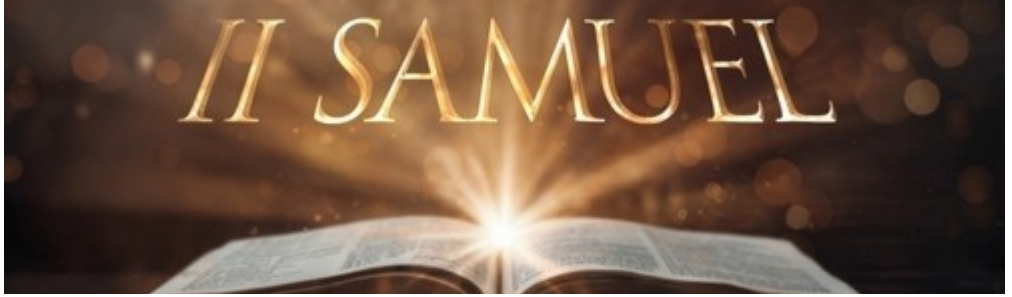
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be faithful in the responsibilities God gives us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, Colossians 3:23

Praise: Psalm 51A:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Friday - 2 Samuel 23:9-10 - It's Better to Have a Bloody Sword than a Rusty One

Eleazar struck down so many Philistines that after a while, he couldn't have let go of his sword, even if he wanted to. Would you rather die with your hand clinging to your sword? Or with your sword rusty because it's used so rarely? Would you rather they had to put the sword in the coffin with you because they couldn't get it out of your hand? Or that they couldn't find your sword and weren't even sure when the last time you used it was?

So what is the sword? For Eleazar it was a literal sword. But how can we apply this today? We can take the sword to represent the Bible. Hebrews 4:12 says that the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged-sword. Or we can just take it as a picture of active service in the Christian life, which won't look identical for all of God's people. And it will look different at different stages of life. But we all have sin in our lives, which we're called in both Romans and Colossians to 'put to death'. And it's always easier to fight the liberals and the government and whoever else - even our fellow Christians - than to fight the sin in our own lives. So we're to take up the sword as we fight the sin in our own lives. But we're also to take it up as we seek to go out with the gospel. Jesus has given a commission to his church. That commission is to go and make disciples of all nations. We don't all have the same role in that commission. But we all have a role to play.

As we fight, remember that we do so in God's strength. The name Eleazar means 'God has helped'. In verse 10 it says: 'And the LORD brought about a great victory that day'. What an illustration that is of how God's sovereignty and man's responsibility aren't opposed to one another. What was Eleazar's responsibility? His responsibility was to not follow the crowd. Not to withdraw like everyone else. His responsibility wasn't to do nothing, but to rise and strike down the Philistines. And his responsibility was to keep doing it until his hand was weary. But who gets the glory? God! Why? Because as Peter says in 1st Peter 4:7, whoever serves is to serve through the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. It may be that we couldn't be accused of being slackers. It may be that we are weary from the fight. But are we serving in God's strength - or are we trying to serve on our own? And if we are fighting in his strength, that will be seen by an active reliance on him in prayer.

Question

1. What is the sword that we are to use?

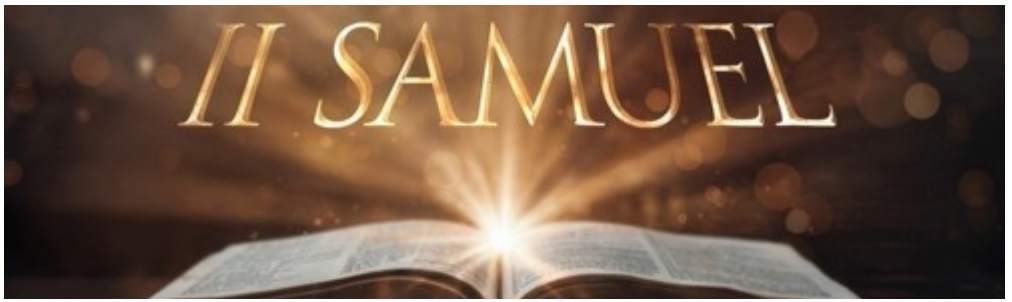
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would battle on in our Christian life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, Colossians 3:23

Praise: Psalm 67C:1-3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 23:8-39 - Holding on Tightly

What is it that you are gripping so tightly, that you couldn't let go, even if you wanted to? Is it the gospel? If someone came along and tried to convince you that the Bible was full of errors, or that Christianity was intolerant - has the gospel got such a hold of you that you couldn't give it up, even if you wanted to?

But woe to us if sin is the thing that gets a hold of us. It starts off wrapping itself to our hand like a cobweb which we could easily break if we wanted to. But then it becomes string. And then it becomes rope. And in the end it becomes strong as metal. And there's no breaking it. Most people don't set out to become big sinners. They don't set out to become a murderer. They would be horrified if they could see at the beginning where they would one day end up. But as someone has said, the path to Hell is downhill. If you take one step at first, you might take two the next time and then four the next time. And so throw away that sin before it clings to you, and you can't let go of it. You can only do that by holding on instead to Jesus Christ. He was nailed to the cross so that you could let go of your sin. Even those sins that cling so closely. Which easily entangle, as Hebrews 12 puts it. 'If the son sets you free, you will be free indeed'.

And so the LORD worked a great victory that day (verse 10). And the men returned only to strip the slain. Those who had withdrawn, came back. And wouldn't we love to see that? Those who we thought were gone for good, being unable to deny what God was doing among us, and coming back never to withdraw again.

Sometimes we can be tempted to think: So many people have started off the race and not finished it that there's no hope. But if in God's strength we persevere - who knows what the LORD will do? Who knows who he'll bring back?

And so: Get on with the work, whether others get stuck in or not. Remember that it's better to have a bloody sword than a rusty one. And pray that God would use it to win a great victory.

Question

1. How can we get rid of the sin that entangles us?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, Colossians 3:23

Praise: Psalm 67:4-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

**The goal of Let's Worship God is to
encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.**

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

**Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.**

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