1 Samuel - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 3, Great Things (12:24)

DECEMBER 12

Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things He hath done for you.

1 Samuel 12:24

God gave His only begotten Son. He punished Him for our sins. Those who have believed in Jesus have been given “all things that pertain unto life and godliness.” We have a RICH inheritance. God has done great things for us. Let us serve Him with all our heart.

CareLines: Volume 3, Prayer (12:23)

DECEMBER 19

God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.

1 Samuel 12:23

How much we need to pray for one another. We pray that each one reading this daily calendar will grow in his or her Christian life, and that you will spend time praying for others.

CareLines: Volume 2, Prayer & Sorrow (15:11)

1SA 15:11

It grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord ALL NIGHT.

1 Sam. 15:11

What made Samuel so upset? Two things:

1. The Lord was sorry that He had made Saul king of Israel.

2. Saul had turned his back on the Lord.

And so Samuel cried in prayer to the Lord all night. That’s laboring fervently in prayer. That’s the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man. This shows the relationship that Samuel and the Lord had, and that Samuel knew where to turn in times of trouble and distress. I wonder if Samuel’s concern was mostly because Saul had turned away from God and Samuel knew that Saul was headed for trouble. That’s the heart of a true pastor or shepherd. Oh, to be like Samuel.

CareLines: Volume 2, Faith: 3 (17:38-39)

1SA 17:38-39

And Saul armed David with his armor. . . . And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them.

1 Sam. 17:38, 39

YOU CAN’T OPERATE ON SOMEONE ELSE’S FAITH, young believer. You must exercise your own faith. Every step you take in life MUST be a step of your own faith in the living God who gave you the faith to start with and now wants you to use it. Never do anything or go anywhere because someone else did. Do what the Lord directs you to do and do it because you have faith in Him.

CareLines: Volume 2, Deliverance: 1 (17:37)

1SA 17:37

The Lord that delivered me . . . He will deliver me.

1 Sam. 17:37

David had absolute confidence that in spite of the odds against him (which he apparently didn't even consider), the Lord would deliver him. Another way to say this is that David had faith. And God loves to reward faith. So we too can have the confidence that no matter what situation we're faced with, the Lord will deliver us. As a result our confidence will grow and we can say, "The Lord that delivered me, will deliver me."

CareLines: Volume 3, Misunderstood (17:28)

AUGUST 3

Why camest thou down hither? . . . Thou art come that thou mightest see the battle.

1 Samuel 17:28

WRONG! David had come to fight the battle, not watch it. David's purpose had been misunderstood. Don't worry if people misunderstand you. Satan can use others' reactions to what you do as a real hindrance to the work of the Lord. In our chapter today David was not turned aside from his purpose and he challenged, met and overcame the enemy.

CareLines: Volume 3, Fear (17:11)

NOVEMBER 27

When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

1 Samuel 17:11

Isn't it something that one man could scare a whole nation? Goliath didn't just frighten the king, or the army, but all Israel. All except one, that is. David wasn't afraid. What was the difference? He had a close relationship with the Lord and had confidence in Him to conquer the enemy. Confidence in self should bring fear and dismay. Confidence in God brings power.

CareLines: Volume 3, Confidence (17:37)

DECEMBER 1

David said . . . the Lord that delivered me . . . will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:37

Here we have the reason why David was not afraid of Goliath (see November 27). He had had personal experience in the saving power of the Lord and so was unafraid in the face of this new challenge. Notice that David had no self-confidence - rather, his confidence was in God alone. Again we say that a Christian trusting completely in the Lord should be the most confident person in the world.

CareLines: Volume 2, Behavior: Part 2 (18:14)

1SA 18:14

And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him.

1 Sam. 18:14

David was in a dangerous position. King Saul was afraid of David. Saul got very depressed and twice tried to kill David. David was to become the next king of Israel. But instead of acting smart-alecky and arrogant, he behaves himself wisely. This made Saul even more afraid of him. How is our attitude around others? Let's learn from David's example and act in a wise manner. There's plenty of foolishness in the world. We,

as Christians, can have fun, yes. We can and should be happy, yes. But we must act wisely in every situation, in every place we go.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship: 1SA 1:19 (1:19)

1SA 1:19

And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the Lord.

1 Sam. 1:19

Husband and wife here - worshipping. Hannah had spent the previous day praying in great distress to the Lord. She begged Him for a child. She found peace after her prayer and the next day was found worshipping. Our worship today will be affected by what we did yesterday. We will be either occupied with the things that we did yesterday so that our worship will be hindered, or our occupation with the Lord yesterday will enhance our worship of Him today. This is what He wants - for us to be totally occupied with Him.

CareLines: Volume 3, Distress (1:26)

DECEMBER 8

I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan.

1 Samuel 1:26

David was extremely upset. His very closest friend, Jonathan, had been killed in battle. So had Jonathan’s two brothers and his father. But it was for Jonathan that David mourned. He really felt this loss. The Lord understands when you lose a loved one. He cares for you in your sorrow. He, who wept at the grave of His friend Lazarus, will be with you and comfort you in your loss. Trust Him.

CareLines: Volume 3, Worship (25:23)

DECEMBER 6

When Abigail saw David, she hasted . . . and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground.

1 Samuel 25:23

You can’t get a better picture than this one of what our attitude should be when we come to worship the Lord. Everything that Abigail did in our verse today was spontaneous. Our worship should also be spontaneous when we get into the presence of the King of kings. Abigail recognized her nothingness in the presence of David, her king. We should too when we come into the presence of our King.

CareLines: Volume 3, Willing to Listen (3:9)

MARCH 23

Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth.

1 Samuel 3:9

These words, Samuel’s answer to the Lord’s call, show that he was a willing listener to the Lord’s instructions. This is something that each of us should covet - to be willing listeners. And when He speaks, do what He asks. A bad servant is one who doesn’t listen to instructions. So if our service for our Lord and Master is to be effective, we need to listen to His voice and follow His instructions.

CareLines: Volume 3, Restraint (3:13)

JUNE 17

His sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

1 Samuel 3:13

Eli had a real problem on his hands. His sons did not follow his faithful walk. Instead, they took bribes and committed fornication with as many women as they could. However, Eli's real downfall was that he did not try to rebuke or restrain his sons. For any parents who may be reading this, restrain your child if you see them going in a path contrary to the Word of God. God will hold YOU responsible if you let them go unchecked. And young person, your Christian parents are trying to steer you in a path that is pleasing to the Lord. Don't despise them when they admonish you.

CareLines: Volume 3, Secret (9:15)

NOVEMBER 24

Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came.

1 Samuel 9:15

It's really neat to see the number of times God shared a secret with one of His servants. Here Samuel is told a day ahead about the one that God had chosen to be king over Israel. It is a real blessing to be able to know God's thoughts and to be able to act in all confidence in accordance with God's will. Samuel would never have to say, "Man, I sure hope I picked the right guy for the job." He knew that he had - because God had told him whom he should choose.

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