

GOD'S MAN - GOD'S TIME - GOD'S PLACE

"Make the Right Choices"

1 Samuel 31:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. Famous epitaphs engraved on headstones:

- a) **Frank Sinatra** - *"The best is yet to come."*
- b) **Mel Blank** (Creator of Bugs Bunny) - *"That's all folks"*
- c) **Martin Luther King Jr.** - *"Free at last, Free at last, thank God Almighty, I'm free at last."*
- d) **Actress Joan Hackett** - *"Go away I'm asleep"*
- e) **Johnny Cash** - *Psalm 19:14*
- f) **Winston Churchill** - *"I am ready to meet my maker, whether my maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter."*
- g) **Jonathan Blake** - born in Uniontown PA - *"Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake - stepped on the gas instead of the brake."*
- h) **William H. Hahn Jr.** - buried in Princeton Cemetery - *"I told you I was sick"*

2. **1 Samuel 26:21**

- a) *"I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."*

3. How do we play the fool? What might our epitaph be?

- a) **I have played the fool** - because *I did not take the Christian life seriously.*
- b) **I have played the fool** - because *I got my kids involved in everything but church.*
- c) **I have played the fool** - because *I never served God with the gifts he gave me.*
- d) **I have played the fool** - because *I was ashamed of the Gospel.*
- e) **I have played the fool** - because *all I could do was criticize.*
- f) **I have played the fool** - because *I never felt Christ worthy of my time treasures or talents.*
- g) **I have played the fool** - because *I lived a selfish life.*
- h) **I have played the fool** - because *I thought I would get saved someday.*

4. A man or woman plays the fool when:

- a) He or she rejects Godly influences.
- b) He or she tries to serve God before actually being sent by God.
- c) He or she disobeys God even in the small things.
- d) He or she tries to cover up their disobedience through religious activity.

e) He or she allows anger and jealousy to master and enslave them.

1) *Luke 6:45*

2) *Proverbs 15:7*

g) He or she turns from the worship of the true god to a counterfeit.

5.1 *Samuel 10:1; 6-7*

6. *John 16:1-15*

THREE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DREADFUL ENDING

I. THE LOSS OF LIFE

1. 1 *Samuel 31:1*

2. *Remember 10:1*

3. *Vs 2*

a) Saul's 3 sons were killed.

4. **ILLUSTRATION:** Tim Lee

5. *Vs 3-4*

6. **WOW!!!** Saul was more concerned about his image with the enemy than he was about his relationship with God when he was about to meet him.

a) No prayer

b) No calling out to God

II. THE LOSS OF TERRITORY

1. *Vs 5-6*

a) Everybody died

2. *Vs 7*

a) The Philistines now move in and occupy the territory where Israelites once lived.

b) **Joshua 1:1-9**

3. *2 Corinthians 10:1-6*

a) "**strongholds**" - fortresses.

4. Vs 10

a) "*Beth-shan*" -

III. A HORRIFIC END OF A LIFE

1. Vs 8

a) "*strip the slain*"

2. Vs 9

a) "*cut off his head*"

3. Vs 10

a) "*They put his armor in the temple of Ashtaroth*"

1) "**Ashtaroth**" - was the pagan goddess of love and war.

b) "*and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shar.*"

1) That means they impaled Saul with a pole and fastened his body on the wall.

2) Not a pretty sight and never should have happened.

3) It happened because of bad choices.

c) "You reap what you sow, more than you sow, later than you sow."

4. Vs 11-13

CONCLUSION:

1. *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

2. *2 Timothy 4:7-8*