

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 29, 2018

This Week's Focus: Jesus paid the ransom for our sins with his blood, thereby securing the eternal redemption of all those who trust in him.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 14:24-52

"But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God." **Hebrews 9:11-14**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- Briefly recount the story from 1 Samuel 13-14:23. What has transpired in Israel's battle with the Philistines thus far? Contrast Saul's war strategy with Jonathan's faith. Who won the victory over the Philistines? Reference 1 Samuel 14:23.
- What was Saul's vow and why do you think he instituted it? How did it affect the people placed under his leadership?
- Discuss the following reasons that Saul's oath was foolish and wrong. What principles can we draw from these?
 - Saul's focus and motives were wrong.
 - Saul's basis of authority was wrong.
 - The punishment was too severe.
 - The timing was wrong.
 - The results proved it was wrong.
- Whose glory was Saul most concerned with? What is legalism and how is it antithetical to living in light of the gospel?

- After defeating the Philistines and taking the spoils, what sin did the people commit? Reference verses 31-32; Leviticus 17:10-12. What does the shed blood of the animal symbolize, and what was it used for? Discuss how Jesus' blood is greater than the blood of the sacrificial goats of the Old Testament. Reference Hebrews 9:11-14.
- Can you relate to the people's fear of human authority above a proper fear of God?
- What's ironic about Saul's reaction to the people's sin and his reaction to Jonathan's "sin"?
- Discuss the difference between human religion and the gospel. Are you, like Saul trusting in human religion or in Jesus Christ?
- How was Jonathan saved from the consequences of his father's foolish vow? How is Jesus the better and truer ransomed Son? Reference Matthew 20:28, 1 Timothy 2:5-6.