



**Courageously Focused on Preparing for The End**

**November 3-4, 2018**

**Big Question:** If you continue to live like you are currently living, what would the end of your life look like?

- Today may be the enemy of your tomorrow. In your business and perhaps your life, *the tomorrow that you desire and envision may never come to pass if you do not end some things you are doing today*. For some people, that is clear and easy to execute. They end the things that are holding them back. For others, it is more difficult. This book is about that problem and how to get the results you desire by ending the things whose time has passed. (*Necessary Endings* by Dr. Henry Cloud)

**Statement:** Saul finds himself in the fight of his life. He and his sons are cornered by the Philistines and he has no David or great warrior to help him. **In I Samuel 31:1-13** his life comes tumbling down.

**I. The Loss of a Fight  
(1 Samuel 31: 1-13, NKJV)**

**Question:** Who do you know that has lost a fight?

**1. Israel runs from the Philistines**

- 1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and **the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines**, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

**2. The Philistines Kill Three of Saul's Sons**

- 2 Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.

**3. The Philistine's Archers Attack Saul**

- 3 The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by the archers.

**II. The Loss of Hope**

**Question:** What would it be like to face a life-threatening moment with arrows flying at you?

**1. Saul Commits Suicide**

- 4 Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore, Saul took a sword and fell on it. 5 And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword, and died with him. 6 So Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and all his men died together that same day.

**Question:** How could a guy who was chosen by God (I Samuel 9:27), handsome (I Samuel 9:2) and made king end up killing himself?

**Answer:** He refused to stay focused, healthy, and obedient. He chose to spend years chasing a made-up villain.

**2. Saul's Kingdom Falls Apart After He Dies**

- 7 And **when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley**, and those who were on the other side of the Jordan, **saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities and fled**; and **the Philistines came and dwelt in them**. 8 So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

**NOTE:** This is an example of how godly people can lose things.



### 3. Saul Is Humiliated in Death (Will your name be humiliated after death?)

- **9** And they cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines, to proclaim it in the temple of their idols and among the people. **10** Then they put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and **they fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.** **11** Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul,

### 4. Saul's Valiant Men Stepped Up and Buried the Bones of Saul and His Sons

- **12** all the valiant men arose and traveled all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth Shan; and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. **13** Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

## III. The Loss of Time

**Question:** Who do you know that has run out of time, options and help?

1. Saul never asked God for **advice before this battle (He asked a medium for help, I Samuel 28)**
2. Saul died fighting his way and refusing to change direction.

## IV. The Loss of a Final Opportunity (1 Samuel 26:17-25)

**Note:** Saul was given one more chance to change shortly before his death (I Samuel 26). David caught Saul and his men sleeping and had a chance to kill him but did not (26:1-16). If Saul had repented and embraced David **this would have been the decision that would have saved his life. He would have had David fighting with him when they fought the Philistines in chapter thirty-one.**

### 1. David Tried to Reach Saul One More Time

- **17** Then **Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is that your voice, my son David?"** David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king." **18** And he said, "**Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand?**" **20** So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of the Lord. For **the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains.**"

### 2. Saul Lied One More Time

- **21** Then **Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more,** because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed, **I have played the fool and erred exceedingly.**"

### 3. David's Final Words to Saul (This is a necessary ending)

- **24** And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so **let my life be valued much in the eyes of the Lord, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation.**" **25** Then **Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail."** So, David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

**Closing Question:** If this was your life story would you be Saul or David? **Would you be focused on being obedient and changing** or denying, denying, denying and lying to yourself again?

**Next Time: Courageously Fighting for the Things That Really Matter**

**Read Ahead: Matthew 16:24-26**