

291.1: Human Heroes (OT Gospel Doctrine Lesson 22, Updated)

“The Lord Looketh on the Heart”

In this lesson we get to know David. Even in the Bible he is a complex, tragic figure. He is both hero and villain, deeply flawed, deeply human. Hints from history suggest he was even more so. The Bible tells us the story of the faithful, courageous boy against Goliath. A devoted friend to Jonathan. A brilliant military leader. A religious leader. A covetous man. A murderer of his faithful servant. Both hero and villain. But in these chapters, most of the characters are sympathetic... the narrative has not yet turned dark

Productive Sunday School

1. Reading Review
2. What do you think of these characters?
3. Give people a chance
4. Updating our view of ourselves and others
5. Faith and preparation
6. Conclusion

Reading Review:

Class Member Reading:

[1 Samuel 9](#) King attempt, take one. Saul is presented as everything you could want in a candidate for king... from a good family (though from a less important tribe, true), wealthy, tall, good looking. Verse 9 is interesting because it reveals the distance between the author and story. The author/editor is telling us the way things “used to be in Israel”. Careful attention to detail reveals the way religious practice changed in Israel over time. God tells Samuel to anoint Saul king, Saul is surprised, and Samuel knows about the donkeys and everything else too.

[10](#) (Note how Bethel is a holy place before worship is centralized in Jerusalem) Samuel makes detailed prophecies relating to Saul’s call as king. He will become a “different person” (10:6) through these events. God “changes Saul’s heart”. Note how God both warns the people (you have rejected me and chosen a king) while also facilitating what they demand.

[11](#) Saul is both vindicated and merciful as he rescues a city from the Ammonites

[13](#) Samuel predicts the fall of Saul’s line because Saul was not obedient (obscure story, Saul offered a sacrifice rather than trusting in Samuel? But Samuel was late?) Odd story about Israel not having weapons (did the Philistines impose that restriction? But they sharpened their farm tools?)

[15](#) Deeply disturbing story. God rejects Saul because he won't completely destroy all living things (including babies!) among the Amalekites? Why is Samuel angry in v. 10? (16:1 suggests because Samuel was a fan of Saul. Or he feared for his safety!) To obey is better than sacrifice, sure, but what about when the obedience involves genocide?! (We can extrapolate that Saul's kingship failed and David ascended, and these stories are trying to explain why that happened, so they tell stories about God's favor shifting. We have to hold them accountable even so)

[16](#) Samuel acts by faith to anoint David. 16:7 is our title verse: Humans look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. David is anointed after Samuel again shows his prophetic knowledge. In an ironic twist, Saul takes comfort in David's music, not knowing the cause of his torment is because God set David to replace him.

[17](#) David and Goliath! (The height given for Goliath converts to 6'9") (2 Sam. 21:19 tells us that Elhanan, not David, killed Goliath. The KJV translators added in "brother" without any Hebrew support!) The story as it is tells of David's faith, courage, and strength. (Also note the new introduction to David in this chapter, a "literary seam". Note that Saul doesn't know David, even though the previous chapter tells us Saul knew David well!) ⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

Additional Reading:

[1 Samuel 12](#) Samuel's farewell speech, reviews God's actions and people's response, lines up Moses, Joshua, Samuel

[14](#) Stories about Jonathan, protective armor bearer, Jonathan breaks an oath not to eat, divination shows Jonathan to be at fault, but Jonathan is rescued.

Productive Sunday School

1. Reading Review
2. What do you think of these characters? (All reasonably sympathetic in these chapters, God seems the fickle one)
 - a. Samuel
 - b. Saul
 - c. David
3. Give people a chance: Biases, prejudices, looking on outward appearance vs. looking on the heart (getting to know people, research indicates appearance makes a GREAT deal of difference. Good looking people are also assumed to be more intelligent, etc! Law of accumulated advantage. Get to know people's heart. When people show you what they are, believe them)
4. Updating our view of ourselves and others (idolatry of past selves, repentance and forgiveness, embracing the change, death and birth of each day. bear testimony of this, lean in to the process, make the most of everything we experience, go through, relationships, learning. Spend every cent)
5. Faith and preparation (these stories tell of people doing what they are good at, being open to new opportunities, acting on the guidance of God)

6. Conclusion: Get to know ourselves and each other each day, move forward with faith, check in with each other's hearts.

Becoming new versions of ourselves (bear testimony of this, lean in to the process, make the most of everything we experience, go through, relationships, learning. Spend every cent)

Do we let others update themselves? (Idolatry treating ourselves and others as former versions of themselves rather than learning them anew every day)

How we judge others:

How we judge ourselves:

(fundamental attribution error)

Privilege and “passing” (privilege doesn't mean you get things handed to you necessarily, but it does mean you are getting an easier version of the exam as you move through life. Does your name, your gender, the color of your skin, motivate people to give you a chance, or pass you by? Do they look to you as part of the solution, or fear you are part of the problem?)

Trust. Trust is more precious than love. Trust must be earned and maintained. We often forget that trust always has an object... we trust someone to do something, sometimes in a particular context.

The ideal is to become someone who is “true at all times and in all places with whatsoever thing they are entrusted (get that scripture)

291.2: Human Heroes (OT Gospel Doctrine Lesson 22, Sunday School)

“The Lord Looketh on the Heart”

King David proves arguably the most complex and relatable character in the entire Bible. Stories of his life are tragically well told, and paint over a history even darker and more complex, if such a thing is possible. This episode covers David's selection as future king, battle with Goliath, and beginning steps towards his role as the one of the most famous kings in history.

This portion covers:

- An introduction to the complicated figure of David
- Human judgment vs. divine “looking on the heart”
- How we can overcome prejudices and biases
- Discussion of weaknesses and strengths

291.3: Human Heroes (OT Gospel Doctrine Lesson 22, Study Notes)

“The Lord Looketh on the Heart”

King David proves arguably the most complex and relatable character in the entire Bible. Stories of his life are tragically well told, and paint over a history even darker and more complex, if such a thing is possible. This episode covers David’s selection as future king, battle with Goliath, and beginning steps towards his role as the one of the most famous kings in history.

This portion covers:

2. Scholarship

1. The complicated history behind the accounts of David
2. Relationship of Saul and David
3. The David and Goliath story you never knew

3. Study Notes

1. How we talk about leaders/popular figures in Church and culture
2. How we remember events and stories
3. Blinders and biases
4. Weaknesses and strengths

(Sheldon hosts, Kevin and Jody join the class)