



**Life Groups In Central Telford Parish**  
**Summer 2016 “Live Like You Mean It”**  
Week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016  
**Beyond Success to Significance**

This week’s story begins with David mourning for the death of King Saul and his dear friend, Jonathan.

- **Welcome**

Have you lost someone/something dear to you in your life? What impact did that person have on your life?

- **Worship**

- i. Every Move I Make - Hillsongs
- ii. Lord I Lift Your Name On High
- iii. In Christ Alone

- **Word**

*Read 2 Samuel 1*

This week’s scripture begins by telling us of a messenger bringing news about the death of King Saul and his sons to David. The messenger claimed to be an Amalekite and witnessed the death of King Saul. He also proudly testified that he was the one to put King Saul into eternal rest. It could be seen that David has not heard the news about it at all. It is understandable that he may not have heard of the downfall of Saul and his sons. During his pursuit of the Amalekite raiding party and the ensuing battle, David has little time to think about how things are going back in Israel. Now, for three days David and his men have been back in Ziklag wondering how the war is going, or perhaps, how it has already gone.

To get a clearer picture of what happened, no doubt we have to look into the last chapter of 1 Samuel.

- **How did King Saul die? Did he killed himself or did someone actually end his life?**
- **What was “ironic” about this man’s “nation of origin” that contributed to his death?**

In 1 Samuel 31, it is stated the Israelites were fighting against the Philistines and many fell slain on Mount Gilboa. On that day King Saul and his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua died. King Saul was critically wounded by an archer and he took his own life with his sword in the end. However, in 2 Samuel 1, this mysterious man claimed that he ended Saul’s life when he saw him leaning on his spear. This Amalekite does raise some questions for me. **What is his true intention here?** In the book of 1 Samuel, we know that God has instructed King Saul to

annihilate the Amalekites and their stocks, and King Saul defies God's command. We know for sure that the Amalekites are definitely not on good terms with the Israelites and in 2 Samuel 1, it stated that David has only returned from his battle with Amalekites. And here we have one Amalekite claimed that he escaped from the Israelites' camp and brought news of King Saul's death to his enemy. Some scholars would have said he happened to be around the area to look for loots before the Philistines came in to collect Saul's body.

It is also interesting to see this man ended Saul's life with no shed of fear. In 1 Samuel 31, Saul's armour bearer would not even dare to end Saul's life and David himself would not do that even when he was given the chance to do so. Some say, because the Israelites are not on good terms with the Amalekites, thus the king feels relatively certain that an Amalekite will end his life.

- **Do you think king Saul's death is a good news or a bad news to David, knowing that Saul always has the intention of killing him?**

The messenger seems to assume that Saul and Jonathan are David's enemies, obstacles to his ascent to the throne. He appears to believe that killing Saul is getting him out of David's way, and thus believes he is doing David a favour. The Amalekites was trying to say the good news is that your enemy Saul is dead, and so is his heir, Jonathan. This means that you can now place this crown on your head and rule as king over Israel."

- **Why did David and his men tear their clothing? Even the Amalekites' clothes were torn when he appears before David.**
- **Based on David's history with Saul, what amazes you about this lament that David wrote?**

- **Walk**

It is pretty impressive that David's eulogy is a psalm that purely mourns the death of Saul and Jonathan and he did not say anything negative about Saul. David's response to the death of Saul is remarkable, **but is it sincere? Is he sweeping all of the evils Saul has committed under the rug? Is this hypocrisy on David's part?**

- **What does the word success mean to us? Is there anything more significant than success?**
- **Like David, would you choose to love your enemy or rejoice over their downfall?**
- **How can we apply what we learnt today?**

Pray for each other in the life groups.

- **Next Time....**

Week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016:

**2 Samuel 11:2-17, 26-27: Prepare For Your Departure**