



DAILY DEVOTIONS

ONE PARAGRAPH OF BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DEVO

SAMUEL 11:1-11

The Israelites were united for the sake of their fellow citizens who were in danger. They probably had their differences and disagreements, but they were willing to set those aside for the urgent need before them. In the church, God wants us to be united out of love for one another. Like Israel, we are made up of different "tribes," but we are one in Christ. No matter what, commit to loving God's people. Devote yourself to caring for others. Unify others to act with love and compassion.

HOW CAN YOU SHOW UNITY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS?

WHAT KEEPS US FROM GREATER UNITY?

WHY IS UNITY NECESSARY FOR OUR MISSION?

DAY 02

1 SAMUEL 11:12-15

HOW HAVE YOU STRUGGLED WITH THE DESIRE TO GET EVEN?

WHEN HAVE YOU SHOWN MERCY TO SOMEONE?

HOW MUCH HAPPIER WOULD YOU BE IF YOU WERE MORE MERCIFUL?

Satan wants you to think that revenge will make you happy. That if you could just get even, then you would be satisfied. But in this story, Saul shows us that mercy leads to joy. Saul extended mercy to those who had not originally supported him. Soon after, Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly (11:15). If we want joy in our relationships, maybe the first step is to show mercy. Let love cover a multitude of sins (see 1 Pet. 4:8) and experience the joy that is sure to follow.

DAY 03

1 SAMUEL 12:1-15

Israel had a history of rebelling against the Lord. Generation after generation forgot the Lord and turned to idols. But God had a history of rescuing them. He raised up judges (people like Samuel) to save them from their enemies and call them back to God. Perhaps you look at your past and feel like a failure. Maybe you've made the same mistake over and over again. But God has raised up Jesus. He is able to rescue you from sin and shame and lead you into a greater commitment to God.

HOW DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE FAILED SPIRITUALLY IN THE PAST?

HOW HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED CHRIST'S RESCUE?

HOW MIGHT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS MOTIVATE YOUR FAITHFULNESS?

SAMUEL 12:16-22

WHAT WORTHLESS THINGS ARE YOU FOCUSING ON?

WHAT THINGS ARE PROFITABLE FOR YOU TO PURSUE?

HOW CAN YOU SHIFT YOUR TIME AND ENERGY TOWARD THINGS THAT ARE WORTHWHILE?

Samuel gave Israel timeless instruction. Don't turn away to follow worthless things that can't profit or rescue you; they are worthless! (v. 21) Consider the things you are giving your time and attention to. Are they worthless? Do they profit? There are some things that aren't sinful, and yet they are not profitable either (see 1 Cor. 6:12). Devote yourself to the things that further your purpose and growth and remember that God alone is able to rescue you from your past. He is worth your complete allegiance, and you will never regret living for Him.

SAMUEL 12:23-25

Samuel said it would be sinful for him to stop praying for the Israelites. Imagine if we believed that prayerlessness was sin. Would we be more motivated to pray? I think so. May you devote yourself to prayer for others: family, friends, community, nation, etc. Everyone you know needs the Lord. Everyone could use more prayer. Commit to pray for others every day. And as you see God answer prayers for you and for others, never forget to consider the great things He has done for you (v. 24). Give God your requests, and then give God the glory.

WHO CAN YOU PRAY FOR MORE CONSISTENTLY?

WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM PRAYING MORE?

HOW CAN YOU WORSHIP GOD FOR THE GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE FOR YOU?