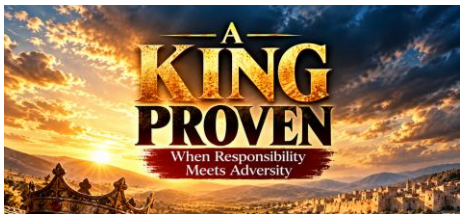
Pastor Doug Kilchenman October 18, 2026

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: 1 Samuel 11:1-15 – Saul's first leadership test in a time of crisis

Today's Message:
"A King Proven"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw the calling of Saul by God through Samuel. When his name was called to step up to be the chosen king, Saul was hiding in the stuff. And we were challenged to step forward by faith into God's calling for our lives. Today, we will see Saul's first test in a time of crisis. God's people were being terrorized by the leader of the Ammonites and messengers ran to get help. Saul will be following the herd at his house when they arrive. Now adversity reveals the character of a leader, the source of his strength, and the purpose for which he uses his influence. It is one thing to be a chosen king, and it is another to lead when the enemy comes. It is one thing to receive a position, a title, or an opportunity, and it is another thing to bear the weight of that responsibility when people are afraid, circumstances are difficult, and a decision must be made. This is the story of Saul's first test and…

This is God's message to you…

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text 1 Samuel 11:1-15

A. The Crisis 11:1-4

1. Saul was given his first test as leader of God's people – a fear-induced _____!

"Adversity"
A condition of hardship, distress, opposition, or difficulty that tests how a person responds.

1Samuel 11:1-2 *– … Nahash…* ***thrust out all your right eyes****… reproach… all Israel.*
1Samuel 11:3 *– … Give us seven days…* ***if there be no man to SAVE US*** *…*
1Samuel 11:4 *– Then* ***came the messengers*** *to Gibeah of Saul…all the people…wept.*

"Nahash the Ammonite" – Nahash means *serpent* – caused dread ***and*** panic to the people!
"Make a **covenant**" – God's people were commanded *not* to do this – ***Ex 23:32; Deut 7:2***
"Thrust out all your **right eyes**" – terrorizing fear; like ***Jdg 1*** – to cause shame, disgrace!
"If there be **no man** to save us" – did they hear Ch 10??? Not looking to God to save!

Important Note
Adversity has a way of revealing what ordinary circumstances may conceal:
1. Will you act or retreat?
2. Will you trust God? no?

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- **Moses** ***Ex 3:7-10*** Responsibility in crisis – God saw the affliction of His people!
- **Nehemiah** ***Neh 1:3-4*** Concern leads to action – heard of great affliction ***and*** reproach!
- **Levite/priest** ***Lk 10:30-37*** Seeing the need and passing by – the Samaritan helped!

KEY TRUTH

- The first step toward a faithful response is recognizing the seriousness of the crisis (or need) and refusing to treat responsibility as someone else's problem.

Personal Application
As a Christian, how do you respond to the needs and hurting of others in your life?
What responsibility or need has God placed in front of you that you have been avoiding?
When you see people around you hurting, do you move toward their need or do you avoid it?

B. The Courage 11:5-11

2. The Spirit of God enabled Saul to step up to a challenge and _____ God's people!

"Righteous anger"
A strong displeasure toward evil or injustice that arises from concern for what is right rather than merely from personal offense.
Ex 4:14 (God); Jn 2:14-15 (Jesus); Eph 4:25 (us)

1Samuel 11:5 *– …Saul came* ***after the herd*** *out of the field… What aileth the people?*
1Samuel 11:6 *– …* ***the Spirit of God came upon Saul****… his anger was kindled greatly.*
1Samuel 11:7-8 *– … Whosoever cometh not forth* ***after Saul*** *and* ***after Samuel****…*
… ***the fear of the LORD*** *fell on the people… came out with one consent.*
1Samuel 10:9-11*–… Saul put the people* ***in three companies****… slew the Ammonites…*

"Out of the field" – it seems that Saul was back to normal life at home; hears the word!
"**Spirit of God** came upon him" – God's enablement; a side of God many never consider!
"Saul **and after Samuel**" – a positive step – for now, Saul unites with Samuel *(word of God)*
"Fear of the LORD…**one consent**" – seriousness understood; they responded together!

What stirs you?
Are you troubled when:
1. People deceive with false doctrine?
2. People are drifting away from God?
3. Children are forsaken, harmed, or killed?
4. People in church are hurting or neglected?

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES Courage in the Lord under pressure…

- **David facing Goliath** ***1 Samuel 17:32-37*** Stepped up – impossible, faithful
- **Esther approaches king** ***Esther 4:14-16*** Stepped up – dangerous, faithful
- **Apostles speak boldly** ***Acts 4:18-20, 29-31*** Stepped up – threated, faithful
- **Paul goes to Jerusalem** ***Acts 20:22-24*** Stepped up – warned, faithful

"Courage"
Not being fearless… but doing what is right even when there is something to fear.

KEY TRUTHS How do we develp courage and boldness in the Lord?

- **Remember who God is** – fear grows when you focus on the size of the _____!
- **Know what is right** – conviction grounded in truth provides a solid foundation.
- **Take the next obedient step** – courage rarely knows all details of the outcome.
- **Accept that responsibility has a cost** – inconvenience, sacrifice, or personal risk.
- **Depend upon God rather than your own strength** – the Holy Spirit enables you!

C. The Character 11:12-15

3. Saul did *not* allow the victory to give an occasion for the _____ to fulfil itself.

A Revealing Moment
This is a revealing moment. The people were celebrating his success, and he had the power to punish those who had doubted him.

1Samuel 11:12 *– … people said…* ***bring the men****, that we may put them to death.*
1Samuel 11:13 *– …* ***Saul said****, There shall not a man be put to death this day:*
for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.
1Samuel 11:14 *–…* ***Samuel said****… let us go to Gilgal… renew the kingdom there.*
1Samuel 11:15 *–…before* ***the LORD*** *… before* ***the LORD****… Israel rejoiced greatly.*

"Bring the men… **put them to death**" – victory brings temptation for revenge and pride!
"The **LORD hath wrought** salvation" – Saul shows restraint, refused to leverage victory!
"**Renew** the kingdom" – From anointing, confirming, selection… to public affirmation!

"Vindictiveness"
A desire to punish someone out of personal resentment or a desire for revenge.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: What does success reveal about you?

- When God blesses you, do you become more humble/thankful or more proud?
- When you succeed, do you give God the glory or draw attention to yourself?

Your Character Matters
Courage may win the battle, but humility helps ensure that victory does not become an occasion for pride and revenge. Your character will be revealed in times of crisis and victory.
"The most dangerous place in the Christian life is the place of blessing." – an old preacher