

SAUL THE LEADER 1 SAMUEL 11

1 Samuel 11 deals with leadership and was Saul at his best!

1 Samuel 8:5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: **now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.**

1 Samuel 8:20 **That** we also may be like all the nations; and **that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.**

1 Samuel 10:6 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. **1 Samuel 10:7** And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, **that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.**

1 Samuel 10:27 **But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us?** And they despised him, and brought him no presents. **But he held his peace.**

I. A leader rises to the occasion!

1 Samuel 11:1 Then Nahash the Ammonite (נַחַשׁ הָעַמּוֹנִי) came up, and encamped against Jabeshgilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee. **1 Samuel 11:2** And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, **On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.** **1 Samuel 11:3** And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if there be no man to save us, we will come out to thee.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going and things couldn't be tougher:

- A city was under siege
- A city was willing to capitulate
- **Possibly part of a larger campaign**

This expansion is found in 4QSAM2 & Josephus

1 Samuel 10:27 But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" They despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace. Now Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had been grievously oppressing the Gadites and the Reubenites. He would gouge out the right eye of each of them and would not grant Israel a deliverer. No one was left of the Israelites across the Jordan whose right eye Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had not gouged out. But there were seven thousand men who had escaped from the Ammonites and had entered Jabesh-gilead. **1 Samuel 11:1** About a month later, Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you."

- **An offer that was all against Israel**
- **An offer to limit Israel's military ability**
- **An offer to allow continual subservience**

Good for farming and not much else!

- **An offer meant to humiliate, shame, degrade & reproach Israel and Israel's**

Proverbs 13:16 Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.

Proverbs 14:15 The simple believeth every word: **but the prudent man looketh well to his going.**

Proverbs 14:16 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: **but** the fool rageth, and is confident.

Proverbs 18:15 The heart of the prudent **getteth** knowledge; and the ear of the wise **seeketh** knowledge.

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: **but** the simple pass on, and are punished.

Proverbs 27:12 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; **but** the simple pass on, and are punished.

II. A leader responds appropriately!

1 Samuel 11:4 Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept. **1 Samuel 11:5** And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What aileth the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh. **1 Samuel 11:6** **And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.** **1 Samuel 11:7** And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

All Christian leaders:

- **Have a sense of righteous anger /indignation**
- **Have an immediate sense of no!!! No you won't! You will not!**
- **Determines the course of action**
- **Gets others on his / her side**
- **Does whatever is necessary**

Judges 3:10 And the Spirit of the LORD (רוּחַ יְהוָה) came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.

Judges 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD (רוּחַ יְהוָה) came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.

Judges 11:29 Then the Spirit of the LORD (רוּחַ יְהוָה) came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.

Judges 14:6 And the Spirit of the LORD (רוּחַ יְהוָה) came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Judges 14:19 And the Spirit of the LORD (רוּחַ יְהוָה) came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

Judges 15:14 And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD (רוּחַ יְהוָה) came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

1 Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD (רוּחַ יְהוָה) came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

1 Samuel 10:6 And the Spirit of the LORD (רוּחַ יְהוָה) will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

1 Samuel 10:10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God (רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים) came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

1 Samuel 11:6 And the Spirit of God (רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים) came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

Numbers 24:2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God (רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים) came upon him. **Numbers 31:16** Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

III. A leader organizes and utilizes all resources!

1 Samuel 11:8 And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. **1 Samuel 11:9** And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, To morrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed it to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad. **1 Samuel 11:10** Therefore the men of Jabesh said, To morrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you. **1 Samuel 11:11** And it was so on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

Saul does what leaders must do:

- **He unified the people (7)**
- **He ascertained his resources (8)**
- **He communicated his intentions (9-10)**
- **He used tried and true tactics**

IV. A leader credits God and God's servants!

1 Samuel 10:27 But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace. **1 Samuel 11:13** And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel. **1 Samuel 11:14** Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there. **1 Samuel 11:15** And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Jeremiah 9:23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: **Jeremiah 9:24** But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

1 Corinthians 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. **1 Corinthians 1:30** But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: **1 Corinthians 1:31** That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

In War: Resolution.

In Defeat: Defiance.

In Victory: Magnanimity.

In Peace: Good Will.

Sir Winston Churchill