

***“A Troubled Life Leads to a Tragic Death”
1 Sam. 31***

**“The greatest tragedy is not death, but what dies within us while we are living.”
--Norman Cousins**

1 Samuel ends w/a focus on contrasting blowout battles: Saul loses big up north and David wins big down south.

Saul and sons die as Israel is routed by the Philistines (1-7)

- *Saul's suicide is one of several in Bible (Abimelech, Ahithophel, Zimri, Judas, Saul and armor-bearer). None are in a positive light.
- *Samuel's prophecy in 28:17-19 is fulfilled.
- *"What would David do"?

Saul's body is shamed before the Philistine gods (8-10)

- *Saul's body is treated somewhat like Goliath's (17:5).
- *Just how great / far-reaching is the cost of Saul's failures?

*Philistines victory benefits whom? 5:1-5, Jdgs. 16:23,24, Isa. 52:5
25 years later a similar pronouncement is made, 2 Sam. 12:14.

Saul's body is properly buried by the men of Jabesh (11-13)

- *Why such gratitude? Recall Saul's ch. 11 rescue from mutilation.
- *David lauds these efforts in 2 Sam. 2:5,6. He also composes a lament over the death of Saul and his sons in 2 Sam. 1.

What should we be reading here in this chapter?

Who ought to be fighting whom here?

How could this chapter's last phrase read?

Where do you see your life heading?