

# VALIANT MEN

## 1 SAMUEL 31

Text: 1 Samuel 31:12

Introduction:

We see here in our text, that Saul and his armies marched into fight the Philistines. The Bible tells us in the text that we read that Saul was sore wounded, and that he ask for his armourbearer to put an end to his life, and his armourbearer was sore afraid that he would not kill his king. Then the Saul fell upon his own sword, and took his own life.

Can you imagine here he is king, standing head and shoulders above everyone, physically and humanly speaking the most promising person in all of Israel. But this is how his life has ended. Dead on a battlefield. And when the fighting had ended, darkness covered that part of the earth, and no one was able to see what had taken place. But as soon as morning light broke the Bible says that certain men came into the battlefield to strip the slain.

I can imagine, there was probably a rush like a rush of wild animals that might feed upon flesh. A rush of humans who were more like a bunch of animals than human beings. To rush upon that battle scene. No

doubt many arrived before daylight, and fumbled their way through the darkness to try to find things of value on the bodies of fallen soldiers.

The Bible says that they came to strip the slain. No doubt they used cruelty in kicking bodies, moving things with their feet. Giving no regard for the dead. It's not enough that they are dead, now their bodies are being desecrated. And the dead offered no defense for themselves. And suddenly one comes upon a huge man. In length his body seemed head and shoulders above all the others. And more than likely they kicked his body over to see his face, and they realized that they had found the slain body of the king of Israel. And near his side the bodies of his sons. And then they began to make fun of not only Saul and his boys but also the God of Israel, who in their minds had been defeated. So to mock Saul, and the God of Israel, they cut off the head of Saul. And fasten their bodies to the wall in Bethshan. And the Bible says,  
11} And when the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul; {12} All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bethshan,

Now what lessons can we draw from this story.

Notice:

# **1. THE HORRIFIC SCENE**

A. These dead soldiers died defending their king and their nation.

1. Their bodies lay lifeless on the ground.
2. There is no defense they can offer.
3. Every valuable thing from their bodies is taken.
  - a. Things from their garments.
  - b. Their weapons.
  - c. Everything of value was stripped.

# **2. THE HIDEOUS SCAVENGERS**

A. Those that go in to strip the slain.

1. Probably very callused.
2. No doubt very hard hearted
3. No question very cold
4. No regard for the person or life of the victim.

5. Personal gain is their only interest.

B. There are scavengers & vultures today.

1. They have no regard for life or person.

Illustration:

Terrorist - Crashing planes into buildings, taking innocent school children hostage in a school and taking many of their lives.

Peddlers - Many parents have had children that these scavengers have tried to sell them alcohol and drugs, with no concern for their life. Personal gain is their only interest.

Perverts - Many parents have had a young girl, who when she reaches a certain age these scavengers begin to prey on her, with no regard of her person or life.

Hollywood- We are being desensitized to vile, wicked life styles to the point that many think that it is a normal thing if someone offends them to take justice into their own hands and take the life of the offender.

We being exposed to what God calls an abominable lifestyle, as being a normal behavior, a way a person was born, instead of a choice that the individual has made.

These scavengers have one thing they desire, personal gain.

Their philosophy is eat drink and be merry.

These scavengers should bother us.

### **3. HEROIC SOLDIERS OR SERVICE**

1 Samuel 31:12

All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.

A. Could not stand the thought of the ungodly making fun of God.

B. These men were valiant men.

C. Valiant men are:

1. Those that go beyond the ordinary.

2. Who are not self serving.

3. Are not addicted to mediocrity and the run of the mill.

4. Who go out of their way to do what they ought to do or what can be done.

5. Are not addicted to casual Christianity.

D. Not everyone was valiant.

1. Not everyone cared.

E. It cost something to be a valiant man.

Close:

What we need are valiant men. Why don't we give the same time in winning the lost as the scavengers give in destroying them? There are drug pushers that have much more dedication pushing drugs than many Christians have dedication in serving Christ. God help us. God help us to be valiant men and women for the Saviour.

In a moment our life will be over. What are you doing with it?

Have you prepared for eternity?

What are you doing with the time that God has given you?

What are you doing with opportunities that God has given you?

I say that all the valiant men and women need to arise and do what God has given us to do.