

STRIPPING THE SLAIN

1 SAMUEL 31

Text: 1 Samuel 31:8

And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa.

Introduction:

I'll call your attention to verse 8, the Bible says right in the heart of the verse that the Philistines came to "strip the slain." Stripping the slain. Let's give that thought our consideration this morning.

They came to rob the dead. There comes a day for every one great and small, at least how the world considers people, to reach a moment of silence in death, when life is ended. When all the fanfare the world can give during life, all the applause, or all the disapproval, it finally comes to an end at the moment of dying. The Bible says:

(Heb 9:27 KJV) "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

We all have an appointment to keep and that appointment is death, and after that the judgment.

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. And the Bible said that 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 the kick 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 VICTIMS

(1 Sam 31:8 KJV) "And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa."

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.

(Eph 2:1 KJV) "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:"

B. Every person who is born is born dead.

1. Lifeless

2. Totally helpless

3. All they have to do to go to hell is just stop breathing.

If we could only see like God sees every human being that is lost is dead and bound for hell.

The Victims

2. THE VULTURES

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.

There are those in the world today who treat human beings who are dead in their trespasses and sins like that.

B. There are vultures today.

1. Those that would strip your children from the things of greatest value.
 - a. Many parents have had children that these individuals would try to sell them alcohol, or drugs, with no concern for their life.

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

Illustration:

Disney with 40% of their employees are professing homosexuals. They don't want to entertain our children; they want to make money off of our children.

c. Television programs and all the ungodliness, they want to make money off our families.

d. Schools in teaching evolution, and robbing the minds of children.

(Col 2:8 KJV) "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

e. The world's idea of success.

1. Eat drink and be merry

They want to strip the slain; they want to rob the dead.

The victim and the vultures; these vultures should bother us.

3. THE VALIANT MEN

{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, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there. {13} And they took their bones, and buried them under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days."

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 casual Christianity.

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

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

D. Not everyone was valiant.

1. Not everyone cared.

2. There are people in this church who will do anything for God as long as it is during the time of the services.

a. As long as it doesn't interrupt your schedule.

b. If you can fit Him in you'll do it.

F. It cost something to be a valiant man.

1. Bus workers knocking on doors on their only day off. Getting back after everyone has ate their lunch on Sunday.

Close:

What we need are valiant men. Why don't we give the same time in winning the lost as the vultures 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? 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.