

Sermon Worksheet: “Renewing the Kingdom” (1 Sam. 11:1–15)

November 12, 2023 (Evening)

Big Idea: Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

1. Kingdom Reproach (1 Sam. 11:1–3)

2. Kingdom Rescue (1 Sam. 11:4–11)

3. Kingdom Renewal (1 Sam. 11:12–15)

Discussion Questions:

1. Where was Jabesh-gilead located? How did this make them more vulnerable to attacks like this from the Ammonites? What did they stand to lose by having their eyes gouged out? Why did Nahash allow the people of Jabesh-gilead to ask for deliverers? Why hasn't the ongoing problem of Israel's being persecuted by their enemies gone away now that they have moved from judges to a king?
2. Why is it so significant that Saul is from Gibeah (v. 4)? What happened in Gibeah during the days of the judges (Jdg. 19)? How many parallels can you find between that passage and this passage? Why are these parallels important for casting the first major event of Saul's kingship in the terms of the days of the judges? Speaking of the king, where is he when the news of the crisis reaches his town (v. 5)?
3. What is the source of the salvation that the people of Jabesh-gilead receive (vv. 6, 13)? When Samuel suggests that the people renew the kingdom, whose kingdom do you think he intends—Saul's kingdom, or the Lord's kingdom (cf. 1 Sam. 8:7; 12:11–12)? Why do the people then focus on the kingship of Saul? How do you think they have interpreted the problem they had experienced in Gibeah of having “no king in Israel” (Jdg. 21:15)?
4. In what way are you tempted to give credit to some human leader, movement, or measure for the salvation that God provides? Where do you look for strength and security? Whose kingdom do you seek to establish for your own protection in life? How does this story teach us about the essential role of Jesus Christ, the God-Man who became our ultimate King?