



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia

St Mary's Cathedral

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

The King is Dead! (2 Samuel 1:1-16)

The first half of 1 Samuel told how Israel became a nation under King Saul. Saul's repeated disobedience resulted in God removing his Spirit from him, and the anointing of another, young David, to be the next king. However, Saul was not removed from his position, and the second half of 1 Samuel showed us Saul's jealous pursuit of David and David learning to trust in God and increase in strength.

Read 1 Samuel 30:1-3, 7-10, 17-20, 26.

1. Where was David and what was he doing?

Read 1 Samuel 31:1-7

2. Where was King Saul, and what happened to him?

Read 2 Samuel 1:1-10

3. How does the news of Israel's defeat and the deaths of Saul and Jonathan reach David?
4. What is true in the young man's account? What is false?
5. Why do you think he claims to have killed Saul? How does he expect David to respond to this news?

Read 2 Samuel 1:11-16.

6. Does anything in David's response surprise you?
7. Why does David have the young man executed? (See 1 Sam 24:6,10; 26:9-10)

Despite being unjustly pursued by Saul for many years, David does not rejoice at his death. Instead he gives voice to the nation's loss, and exercises righteous judgement on the one who claimed to have killed the Lord's anointed king.

This attitude of David towards Saul, consistent to the end, foreshadows that of Jesus. Jesus did not grasp at the kingdom that was rightly his, but entrusted himself to the purposes of God. Peter calls us to consider and follow this example of Jesus.

Read 1 Peter 2:13-25 and 1 Peter 3:8-12.

How can we help each other make this righteous response to those who would make us their enemies?

