

Rizpah, a Faithful Mother



Sunday 10/18/2024

Previous Lesson

- **2 Samuel 21:1 (NKJV)**

¹ Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, "*It is* because of Saul and *his* bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites."

- **2 Samuel 21:6 (NKJV)**

⁶ let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us, and we will hang them before the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, *whom* the LORD chose." And the king said, "I will give *them*."

- **2 Samuel 21:8-9 (NKJV)**

⁸ So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite;

⁹ and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the LORD. So they fell, *all* seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first *days*, in the beginning of barley harvest.

- **2 Samuel 21:10-14 (NKJV)**

¹⁰ Now Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night.

¹¹ And David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

¹² Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of Jabesh Gilead who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa.

¹³ So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged.

¹⁴ They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.

Rizpah

- She was Saul's loyal concubine.
- She had two sons, Armoni and Mephibosheth who David gave to atone for Saul's sin with the Gibeonites (not Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan).
- She took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven.
- She did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night.
- She was grieving the loss and death of her sons.
- She stayed faithfully and devoted till David heard of her and gave her sons a proper burial.
- We don't hear of her making complaints of injustice and wrong doing by David.

A Mother's sacrifice

- The sacrifices that mother's make for their children are amazing and challenging. There is a natural compassion, commitment, and courage in the heart of most mothers when matters concern the welfare of their children. Loyalty and love flow like a waterfall from the heart of a devoted mother and we are again confronted with one of those stories of a woman's devotion for her children and relatives which make you want to sit down in awe and say, "Wow!" It's a story not known by most Christians, but once the story has been told and explained, you don't tend to forget it easily. It is a story about courage, compassion, and commitment and its insights are a great challenge of the kind of devotion we ought to have for the Lord Jesus Christ. It demonstrates the concern we should have for the lost souls of men and women. Treasures From the Scriptures

- On one of the hills of Gibeah , Rizah demonstrates to us courage, commitment, and compassion as she guards her lost loved ones. This woman, probably in her 60's or 70's, is determined to keep the bodies of her sons and Saul's grandsons from being desecrated while hanging on the trees. Her desire was a decent burial for them. She makes no attempt to cut down the bodies as an act of submission to God's judgment. According to Mosaic Law, she was entitled to remove the bodies at sunset on the day of their death ([Deuteronomy 21:22,23](#)). (If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you *as* an inheritance; for he who is hanged *is* accursed of God.) She refrains from doing this. She wants full assurance that God is appeased. The nation was judged because a covenant was broken. When the rains would come again, she would know that God was satisfied. Until that time she becomes the guardian of lost loved ones. She makes a small tent of sackcloth on the rocks of the hill and stands guard for the next six months till the rains come again in mid-October. Treasures From the Scriptures

- In the Bible, the harvest season begins in early spring with the barley harvest, and continues through early summer with the wheat harvest, and into fall with the great harvest around five or six months.
- The sight and smell of the dead, decomposing bodies must have been horrifying and nauseating. The aroma in the wind would draw the vultures and hyenas. During the day in the hot Middle East weather, she would contend with buzzards, vultures, and other scavenger birds and at night she would have to deal with packs of wild dogs or hyenas. She must have been exhausted as the days lingered on. David was informed and moved by what this woman was doing. He retrieves Saul's and Jonathan's bones, and the bones of the seven slain men and gives them a proper burial, thus terminating Rizpah's suffering. Treasures From the Scriptures

- **Lesson 1.... Even though these men were accursed, she was loyal, dedicated, and loved these men hanging on the tree.** We are to have that same attitude and dedication for Jesus Christ.
- [Galatians 3:13](#)—*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:.*
- Our Lord took the sins of the entire world upon Himself. His sacrifice demands our love, loyalty, and dedication.
- [Romans 12:1](#)—*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*
- [Philippians 3:7, 8](#)—*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.*

- **Lesson 2.... Rizpah protected loved ones on a tree.** We are to guard and protect the Lord's reputation by the way we live too. We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ.
- [2 Corinthians 5:20](#)—*Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*
- All that some people know about the Lord Jesus Christ is what they see in our lives.
- [2 Corinthians 3:2, 3](#)—*Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*
- For this reason, we want people to get the right message about the Lord. We don't want to be a hindrance to others.
- [1 Corinthians 8:9](#)—*But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.*

- **Lesson 3... Others I'm sure thought she was crazy to guard these dead bodies and remain so devoted and loyal. Yet, she was still faithful.** This world will think the same of you if you are dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ. You go ahead and serve the Lord anyway. Amen! Paul put it this way in the book of 1 Corinthians.....
- [1 Corinthians 4:10-16](#)—*We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honorable, but we are despised. [11] Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; [12] And labor, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: [13] Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. [14] I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. [15] For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. [16] Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.*

- **Lesson 4.... Rizpah had to endure difficulties with the wilderness, weather, wild animals, and the woe of depression, yet, she was steadfast like a soldier on duty.** We too are to endure hardships in our journey with Christ.
- [2 Timothy 2:3](#)—*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*
- How do we do this?
- [Hebrews 11:24-27](#)—*By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; [25] Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; [26] Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. [27] By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

- **Lesson 5.... Rizpah had to be alert constantly and consistently for the devourers.** We too are to be alert and on guard for the devourer, Satan.
- [1 Peter 5:8](#)—*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*
- [1 Corinthians 10:12](#)—*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*
- **Lesson 6.... Rizpah's commitment and love touched the lives of others.** Your commitment to Christ and love for others will influence and touch the lives of others too.
- Treasures From the Scriptures