

Day 27 – Mar. 7

“For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.” Newton’s Third Law is about physics, but to some extent it seems to apply to our spiritual life as well. For every action, there is perhaps not an equal nor exactly opposite reaction, but there is certainly a consequence.

For Saul, this consequence came when he impatiently tried to take on the mantle of priest, a role designated by God alone, and NOT to Saul. God was not too happy with this mixing of church and state, and so the consequence was severe – Saul loses the kingdom and God has sought out “a man after God’s own heart.” Now we can argue that God knows all of history, or that Saul was GOING to do many more godless things, but in the timeline of this story, this seems pretty severe. Yet as we discussed yesterday, we only seek that God’s will be done, not ours.

For Jonathan, this consequence came when he performed the dastardly deed of eating a bit of honey. This might remind us of Samson’s honey snack since there are a lot of callbacks to the Judges in this reading (think Saul’s thoughtless vow paralleling Jephthah’s). But while Samson’s honey-tasting from the carcass of a lion broke his Nazarite vow to God which was made for him instead of by him, Johnathan’s broke his vow to Saul which was made for him instead of by him. Striking similarities but big differences. And perhaps the most interesting is that while both actions had consequences, God chose not to carry out Samson’s punishment, and for Jonathan it is his fellow soldiers who defer his punishment.

For us, this consequence comes every time we sin. Sin always has a consequence, even today. But the good news is that God didn’t ignore the consequences of sin; He paid them for us. Through Jesus’ death on the Roman cross as a political dissident, God came and suffered the consequences of our actions – unjust indeed, but merciful.

Every action has a consequence. Praise God that He paid the price for ours so that we could live our lives for Him.