FIRST FRUITS FIRST “*BUT THE* KINGDOM” FEBRUARY 1, 2024

“*Now what more can he have but the kingdom”* [1 Kings 18:8]

Here’s an ironic statement of frustration regarding King Saul’s perception of (the future king) David. Saul was upset because the public offered more praise to a gifted warrior than to himself. His sarcastic comment kindled a jealous fire that ultimately would push his firstborn Jonathan, the rightful heir, to pass his royal birthright to a young, sling-wielding shepherd.

I say ironic, because Saul spoke both prophetically and unknowingly. Although Israel’s first king would do everything possible to prevent it; one day this young lad would rule the Kingdom of Israel, establish the future boundaries of that nation, and be an heir to the Kingdom of God.

Saul’s reign actually got off to a good start. He sought guidance from Samuel before he was anointed [1 Samuel 9:18]. He prophesied [1 Samuel 10:11]. He prevented his own soldiers from slaughtering enemies and shedding unnecessary blood [1 Samuel 11:13].

Unfortunately, we all have heard of the erosion of Saul’s favor with God as his disobedience altered his destiny. There is much for us all to learn from his demise. Immature leadership, coupled with unwillingness to learn from his mistakes became a formula for disaster.

David’s exemplary conquering of Goliath was done to exalt the Lord and to protect his fellow Israelites. But the laudatory praises of the people unhinged an insecure leader. Whereas he could have complimented David and lifted him as an outstanding example of a loyal subject, Saul saw an adversary.

What Saul missed is what we all need to see. We need to humble ourselves to realize the efforts of others, especially high-profile followers, can be misinterpreted. There is absolutely no evidence that David sought the crown for himself. Yet his proximity to leadership was tragically misread as an opportunity for his personal gain.

Yeshua, the Firstfruit of Yahweh, suffered similar blindness from even his own followers. Our Lord rebuked not only Sadducees and Pharisees, he had to correct Peter and his companions.

One must be seasoned and humbled if he/she seeks high office. Doing the right thing – without the need for recognition – sets the true leader apart. Such will inherit the Kingdom of God.