

**Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020**

**Speaker:** Scott Taylor

**Title:** Who are you looking to?

**Passage:** Judges 9: 7-15

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This parable is told against the backdrop of Abimelech being crowned king at a time when Israel had no kings due to God's decree. At a time of crisis, they looked to the wrong person.

The parable tells of how the trees looked for abundance provision in their leaders or they looked to the olive tree, who said no. Then they looked to the security and stability and safety of the fig tree, but it said no. Then they looked to the life and joy and hope that the vine offered, but that tree said no. Eventually they turned to the thorn bush a tree in which nothing can take shade and grow and flourish!

Abimelech here is the thorn bush and the people had gone against God and chosen the wrong person.

Who are we looking to? Hopefully, it is Jesus, but is it in every part of our lives? You see he is the one who has been crowned as King of all Kings.

The irony from the story is that the tree that presumed to be king – the thorn bush, is the tree that crowns Jesus. The crown of thorns was jammed onto his head as the soldiers mocked and beat him. It looked like those thorns (representing a culture who were suffocating the life out of people with religiosity) had won as Jesus breathed his last, but then Jesus rises again and defeats the power of the enemy.

We can now look to him as the abundant provider King, the secure and stable King, the King who points to fullness of joy of hope of celebration.

Jesus is the one we get to look to at this time and for all time.

**Questions**

- 1) What did you hear afresh or for the first time on Sunday?
- 2) What are you looking to in areas of life to help bring wisdom, comfort or security at this time?
- 3) What would it look like to look to Jesus in these areas?
- 4) Discuss together the ways that Jesus is abundant, secure and full of joy and hope. Then pray thanking Him for all he is.