**SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE**

A PICTURE OF FOLLY

I SAMUEL 14:24-52

AUGUST 20TH, 2023

1. Saul’s Foolish Vow: vs. 24-35
2. Saul’s Foolish Proposal: vs. 36-46
3. Saul’s Sad Legacy: vs. 47-52
4. Application: Four Characteristics of a Fool
5. Fools live as a functional atheist
6. Fools are dominated by short-sightedness
7. Fools mistake the real battleground
8. Fools elevate their own commands above God’s (legalism)

**Questions:**

1. Spend some time as a group coming up with a biblical definition of a fool. Assign each person one (or two) of the following passages, give the group 5-7 minutes, and come back and provide insight the Biblical meaning of folly or a fool:
   * Proverbs 23:9
   * Proverbs 13:20
   * Proverbs 18:2
   * Proverbs 29:11
   * Luke 12:13-20
   * Proverbs 26:4
   * Romans 1:22 (and surrounding context)
   * Proverbs 12:15
   * Proverbs 26:12
   * Proverbs 29:20
   * Proverbs 26:11
2. What is the difference between foolish behavior and faith-driven behavior? For example, in Genesis 12 was Abraham’s faith-driven behavior to pack up his family and move to a land he did not know foolish? Why or why not?
3. King Saul displayed foolish behavior throughout chapters 13-14. Which of the four characteristics of a fool highlighted in the application of the sermon was most challenging for you and why?
4. King Saul misunderstood the most important battleground to be his own heart. Why is it so important to win the war that takes place in our hearts?
   * Hint: Proverbs 4:23
5. Have each person share one area of their life that they tend to demonstrate foolish behavior (or are tempted to be foolish) in and have the group pray for them.