

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 15TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

### VICTORY (1 SAMUEL 14:1-23A)

#### SAUL'S SON

In this two-part story, two main characters are shown: King Saul and his son Jonathan. King Saul is seen as indecisive and inconsistent, and then there's Jonathan, who is like a **rock that can't be shaken**.

- How many of us have let our circumstances and family situations determine our faithfulness to God?

#### EPHOD

Ahijah is mentioned because this would show that Saul would have access to his priestly council at this moment and would be able to get guidance on what to do, and **he doesn't take advantage of that**.

- It's one thing to have godly council. It's another **to be selective on when we get that council**.

#### NOTHING CAN KEEP

Jonathan knew the promises of God; he was aware that if the Lord wanted to save them, He would. So, he went into battle, **had a plan to know whether the Lord wanted him to fight or not**, and did something many tacticians would not agree with.

- God is many things: our friend, our Savior, our refuge, but **we are not His Lord**.

#### I'M RIGHT HERE

Jonathan had someone who **supported what God called him to do**. He went into battle with this man who was willing to put his life on the line for Jonathan.

- Who are our people that support what God calls us to do? Those same people are willing to tell us when they think **God isn't calling us to do something**.

#### THE ARK

Ahijah the priest needs to speak to the army before they go into battle (Deuteronomy 20), **but the enemy's panic distracts Saul**.

- Sometimes, **massive storms** happen in our lives that move us away from Jesus, but most of the time, **it's the slow tide that does it**.

### OATH (1 SAMUEL 14:23B-46)

#### MY ENEMIES

Self-centered leadership is terrible leadership. Saul wants to make this oath not to prove God's might but to show his might and to bring **vengeance on his enemies**.

- Sometimes in life, we can be so goal-focused and project-minded that we forget the people **Christ died for** and **we are meant to minister to**.

#### BROUGHT TROUBLE

Jonathan recognizes how much of a foolish decision it was to make this oath and that God could have been more glorified by Saul's decision. Saul would rather have **vengeance over his enemies** than see God work in him and through him.

- We can't be surprised if we never see God work **if we only look at ourselves**.

#### AN ALTAR

Here, Saul stops his troops from sinning against God and is concerned for them, but right after, he sins by not making an altar the correct way. God tells them where to build an altar—they **don't decide where** (Deuteronomy 12).

- Do we **treat Jesus like a genie**, and are we so focused on other people's sins that **ours have become morally ok**?

#### MAY GOD PUNISH ME

Here is Saul being rash again and making another oath to God, but this time, **it may kill his own kid**. We don't know why he made the oath because there are many factors. Saul had a problem with how people saw him but also had this quest for vengeance.

- **Inconsistently following Jesus leads us to places we never thought we'd go**.

#### THE PEOPLE REDEEMED

This part isn't as much about Jonathan being saved as Saul being flippant. He doesn't want his soldiers to sin, but then he does. He wants to kill anyone who breaks the oath, and then he doesn't. He is constantly **being influenced by everything around him except God**.

- **Are we focused enough on Jesus to pray and read His Word daily?**

### RESCUED (1 SAMUEL 14:47-52)

#### SAUL ASSUMED

This section is mostly likely here because of what will **happen to Saul** in the next chapter and what it will lead to for his family and the nation of Israel.

- God is extremely patient with our disobedience and rebellion, but **we are not promised tomorrow or everything we have today**. We do not have to act like Saul.

#### HE FOUGHT AGAINST

The nations mentioned are all around Israel, telling us that Saul was a good military leader, but **he was not a covenantal leader**.

- We can do all the right things, **but until our heart changes**, all we can expect to hear from Jesus is, "Depart from me. I never knew you." **Heart change looks like**

humility and repentance.

#### HE ENLISTED

**Saul did what Samuel said kings would do** in chapter 8. When he saw a strong man, he took him from his family and sent him to kill and die for his personal gain. **Israel wanted a king so they could feel tangible safety**.

- **Inward temptation is the biggest liar we will ever have in our lives. Listen to Jesus, not the temptation.**

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

- Christians have agreed to follow a standard we didn't create. **Jesus is our Lord**, and He is meant to influence us.
- This also opens us up to accountability that influences us **and changes us**.
- Do we have people in our lives whom we can share our junk with? **Are we going to wait until we have junk to look for them?**

#### PATIENCE

- There is nothing wrong with wanting justice, and there must be a trust that **God knows how to be more just than us**.
- **A repentant life is a lifestyle, not a moment. That's why we celebrate milestones and reward confession**.
- Repentance without Jesus is just recovery.

#### A FUTURE

- **We can not let temptation rule us**. It will lie, manipulate, and try to destroy our lives. **Temptation is not jealous, but God is. We need to pray, fast, and read the Bible**.
- We need to be influenced by a community willing to **pray for us, encourage us**, and care enough about us to **see us become more like Christ**.