

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 25TH-26TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

### IDENTITY (1 SAMUEL 18:1-9)

#### POST GOLIATH

After defeating Goliath, David's life changed forever. Saul would honor David with prestige, position, and possessions. David would also find a true godly friend in Jonathan.

- What does our life look like after the giants are defeated? Having an authentic community will help us remain humble.

#### GOD'S KINGDOM AND IDENTITY IN GOD

Jonathan was the first-born son of a king and David was the last-born son of a farmer. Most expected Jonathan to be the next king. But Jonathan gave his robe to David.

- **Jonathan lived for God's kingdom and was secure in his identity in God.** This allowed him to honor David.

#### DAVID'S HUMILITY AND IDENTITY IN GOD

David quickly became popular because he was a man after God's own heart. People praised him and would sing songs about him.

- David didn't let this get to his head. He kept the heart and mind of a shepherd, even in a season of great success. How do we handle praise from others?

#### SAUL'S KINGDOM AND NO IDENTITY IN GOD

"Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands" was the song that people were singing. This bothered Saul.

- **Saul lived for his own kingdom and his identity was in what others said of him rather than who God said he was.** Insecurity will cause us to crave the praise of people.

#### SAUL WATCHED DAVID JEALOUSLY...

Not only was Saul insecure, but he felt threatened. Perhaps there was a guilty conscience as he remembered what the prophet Samuel told him about him not being king (1 Samuel 15:28).

- **Instead of responding in humility and finding security in God,** Saul became jealous of David and wanted to kill him.

### SPEARS (1 SAMUEL 18:10-19)

#### DAVID MINISTERS TO SAUL

An evil spirit (1 Samuel 16:14) came on Saul and he began to rave (prophecy). David plays music to minister to this troubled king.

- Most people, after the fame that came to David, would consider this kind of service "beneath" them. As a Christ follower, **servicing others can never be beneath us.**

#### SAUL THROWS A SPEAR TWICE

The same music ministry that once relieved Saul and made him well (1 Samuel 16:23) now has no effect. Saul decides to throw spears.

- David's music ministry or heart did not change. Saul's heart changed. Saul refused to humble himself and receive help. This led to the murder attempt on David.

#### DAVID GOT AWAY FROM HIM TWICE

Perhaps Saul's aim was bad, affected by his poor mental state. Perhaps David saw the spear and ducked or God protected him.

- David didn't pick up the spear and throw it back. He was determined to leave the situation in God's hands, and not take the throne himself. **He trusted in God's timing.**

#### THE LORD WAS WITH DAVID

By all outward appearance, Saul is in control. He has the throne, the army, and the spears. Yet Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with David.

- **David lived a life of daily obedience and desperate dependence on God** and Saul felt threatened and needed to send him out.

#### SAUL'S INTENTION TO HARM

Saul offers his older daughter to David. In this culture, a price was to be paid to the bride's father. Because of Saul's family status, this price was very high. Saul thought this would force David onto the battlefield.

- David had a humble heart and God protected him against Saul's manipulation.

#### BY ANY MEANS

Saul attempted to use every means to bring about the downfall of David. His main strategy was to get him out on the battlefield to "let the hand of the Philistines be against him."

- **When the spears of life are thrown at us, how will we respond? Will we remember that God is with us?**

### DOWRY (1 SAMUEL 18:20-30)

#### MICHAL LOVED DAVID

She was probably attracted to his outward appearance and his fame. Saul knew Michal's character and knew that this could be a trap for David if he chooses to marry her (2 Samuel 6).

- **Saul's heart continued to be hardened. Pride and a hardened heart will lead to a life of destruction.**

### SAUL'S PRICE FOR HIS DAUGHTER

Instead of a face to face conversation, Saul sends his servants to communicate with David. "The king desires no other bride-price except a hundred Philistine foreskins."

- He asks David to put his life in danger because Saul wants him dead. It was designed to make the Philistines angry.

#### SAUL'S PLAN BACKFIRED ON HIM

David answered Saul's attempt at manipulation by being a humble servant and by giving more than what was required.

- Saul realized that God was with David and "he became more afraid." **Saul was more focused on killing David than being in right relationship with God.**

#### IDENTITY IN EVERYTHING... BUT GOD

- Saul's identity was being the king. He was consumed by the praises of people.
- The love of money, worldly success, self-worship, and anything but God will leave us confused, hopeless, and exhausted.
- **An identity in our Creator changes everything.** We were designed to be with Him.

#### IDENTITY IN GOD

- David knew he was a child of God in the shepherd fields and he carried the same identity in the seasons of success.
- Believers need to remember who we used to be before our new identity in Christ.
- **If we forget our identity in Christ, we will look for a new identity somewhere else.**

#### IDENTITY CHANGES OUR PERSPECTIVE

- Saul's identity was in temporary things (power and prestige) on earth (Matthew 6:21).
- David was a man after God's own heart. He treasured eternity with God and was open handed with earthly things (Psalms 84:10).
- **What we identify with will affect where we fix our eyes in life** (2 Corinthians 4:18).

#### WHERE DO WE FIND OUR IDENTITY?

- When we begin a relationship with Christ, we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- How do we handle the praise of people?
- When the spears of life are thrown at us, how will we respond?
- **Where will we choose to find our identity?** Will it be with our Creator or with creation?
- **For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together** in my mother's womb. I will praise you because **I have been remarkably and wondrously made.** (Psalm 139:13-14 CSB)