

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 2ND-3RD, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

### LOYALTY (1 SAMUEL 19:1-7) STILL TRYING TO KILL DAVID

After trying several times to kill David, Saul tells his son Jonathan to do it. Jon loved David and was "bound" to him as a friend, so he told him to hide until he could resolve the situation.

- We all need some **great friends who keep a level head when we're under pressure and help us regardless of the cost.**

### JONATHAN HAD A LOT TO GAIN FROM DAVID'S DEATH

If David were to die, Jon would be the clear successor to the throne. But his willingness to try and bridge the gap between Saul and David showed the depth of his character.

- **Do we value character over selfish gain? Are we people of honor and servitude? Do we understand God rewards this?**

### REASONS TO RECONSIDER MALICE

Jon offered Saul three reasons to reconsider his malicious intent toward David. First, David hadn't wronged Saul. Second, David's victories were also Saul's. Third, Saul would be sinning.

- **If we don't hold authority open-handedly, we will grow jealous and foolish. Sharing authority also makes us better leaders.**

### SAUL LISTENED... KIND OF

Saul "listened to Jonathan's advice and swore an oath" to spare David, but that didn't last long. But, at least for a short time, Jon was able to get David back into the royal household.

- **We're to be peacemakers to the best of our abilities** (Proverbs 12, Matthew 5, Romans 14). **What people do after that isn't our responsibility.**

### HIDE & SEEK (1 SAMUEL 19:8-17)

#### "WHEN WAR BROKE OUT AGAIN..."

David defeated the Philistines again and again "an evil spirit sent from the Lord came on Saul." This time, David was playing the lyre, and Saul tried for the third time to impale him to the wall with a spear.

- Though David escaped, Saul sent "agents" to David's house to kill him.

### A DEVOTED WIFE (SO FAR)

Michal loved David and warned him of the plot. She lowered him through a window then took the "household idol" on the bed with goat's hair to make it look like he was sick in bed.

- Did she think the idol would save David? Did Saul possibly recognize this flaw as part of the "trap" for David (18:21)?

### SOME WEAKNESSES THAT RETURN LATER

First, the fact that she had an idol in her home reveals she lacked full allegiance to God. Second, she placed the blame on David in order to save herself. Her disconnect from God would eventually be her downfall (2 Samuel 6).

- **Partial allegiance to God is selfishness, and this will always result in a collapse.**

### DO WE MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE?

We have many "idols" today that we look to for fulfillment. We also tend to trust in our own logic and methods to deliver us in tough times.

- Though it is ok to have passions and use common sense and reason, **we must ultimately rely on the power and wisdom of God, His Word, and His Spirit to lead us.**

### DISGRACE (1 SAMUEL 19:18-24)

#### SEEKING THE OLD PROPHET

David only traveled three miles or so when he fled Saul. He sought out the old prophet Samuel to tell him what was happening.

- Sam was at Naioth, which was more than likely a neighborhood of houses or a religious complex similar to a monastery in Ramah.

### THE "AGENTS" RUN INTO A PROBLEM

When Saul finds out where David is, he sends "agents to seize" him. When the agents arrive in Samuel's town, they witness a "group of prophets prophesying," and then the Spirit comes on them, and they also prophesy.

- Essentially, **they were captured by the Spirit and compelled to change their plans.**

### THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

In the OT, prophecy could be used to *foretell future events*, but it could also be used for simply **forthtelling**, which means to *proclaim the direction or instruction of God*.

- In 1 Corinthians 12:10, **the Gift of Prophecy** means to *declare the divine will of God, to interpret the purpose of God, or to make known the truth.*

### THIRD TIME IS A CHARM?

After a second failed attempt to get David, Saul decided to do it himself. As he approached a "large cistern at Secu" he asked how to find David and Samuel.

- When Saul arrived at Rama, "The Spirit of God also came on him," and he also began to prophesy.

### UNDER TOTAL CONTROL

The coming of the Spirit over Saul indicates that he was under complete control of God. This affirmed several things: 1) Saul was reminded **God had ultimate control**. 2) The stripping of his clothes showed **he was not worthy of royal responsibility because he had rejected God**. 3) Saul prophesying in front of Sam affirmed **the real truth over Saul's truth**. 4) Lying naked in public would have been the most **humbling** act of public shame. 5) An old saying was rekindled that reminded the people that **Saul was, in fact, no prophet (purveyor of truth) at all**.

### LEFT IN SHAME AND DISGRACE

At this point, sin and disobedience to God has left Saul in utter chaos, shame, and disgrace.

- **Satan's goal is to "steal, kill, and destroy." When we choose a life of sin we choose to be left to our own devices and the snares of the Devil. This will result in destruction.**

### THE LOYALTY OF JONATHAN

- Jonathan was a loyal friend with a level head who encouraged David while still holding onto the truth. **Do we have some people in our life like this?**
- Are we striving to be this kind of person for others? **Do we love people in word and deed and challenge them with truth?**

### THE PARTIAL ALLEGIANCE OF MICHAL

- Michal loved David but had a partial reverence for God. **Partial allegiance to God is simply disguised selfishness.**
- Do we understand that being "yoked" to someone not dedicated to God will result in hardships and possible derailment from God's will?

### THE MALICE OF SAUL

- Saul was disobedient to God's commands, and this resulted in a departure of God's Spirit. **Do we understand that God will not occupy a rebellious heart?**
- Do we understand that a **heart absent of God's Spirit will become jealous, suspicious, selfish, and eventually hateful?**

### THE PROGRESS OF DISTANCE FROM GOD

- A lack of loyalty (**partial allegiance**) to loving God and others will lead us to selfishness and biblical compromise.
- **Rebellion** or neglect of God's commands will result in confusion, anger, disgrace, and malicious intent.
- Both **will result in eventual destruction.**

### THE VALUE OF INTEGRITY

- **Have we counted the long-term costs of no or partial commitment to God?**
- Are we willing to risk the most important things in life for short-term selfish gain?
- On the contrary, **what are the rewards of commitment to God and biblical integrity? Are we willing to build this foundation?**