

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

### BEST FRIENDS (1 SAMUEL 18:1-9) DEFEATING GOLIATH BREEDS CHANGE FOR DAVID

David went from a boy shepherding sheep to a war hero overnight. Because of his recent success, David was adopted into Saul's family and became quick friends with Jonathan, Saul's son.

- It appeared that Saul brought David in to further his own name, but Jonathan's motives were pure.

### EQUAL FAITH AND COURAGE

As we have read in chapter 14, Jonathan was very trusting and had a great faith that God would provide strength during battle. This common thread of trust in God's power and ability that resided in both Jonathan and David was the beginning of a strong bond in friendship.

- **To find success during trials, we must have community that enforces our faith.**

### WHO YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH, MATTERS

In 1 Corinthians, Paul writes that, "Bad company corrupts good morals." Not only do we need to be mindful of whom we are surrounding ourselves with because of the corruption they might bring, but we also must remember an inverse of this truth: **Good company enforces good morals.**

- Jonathan and David saw similarities in one another, and thus began a strong friendship.

### A KINGSHIP, UNDERSTOOD

Jonathan had also given David his robe and armor. Because of Jonathan's strong relationship with the Lord, he could see that David's destiny was clear and he was able to humbly accept David as the eventual king.

- David's reception of these gifts reflected humility and showcased his willingness to follow God's plan. **They both submitted to the Lord!**

### ULTERIOR MOTIVES

While Jonathan had every motivation to befriend David because of their similarities, Saul's motives were instead **selfish and narcissistic.**

- It seems that Saul was rewarding David by putting him in charge of the army, but Saul's desire was to be seen as the hero. **He pleased the people with this action** (v. 5), therefore Saul intended to be seen as the mastermind.

### RINGING IN VICTORY

When the time came for all the people to celebrate King Saul and the troops, their song doesn't bode well for Saul.

- The terms for "thousand" and "ten thousand" men are generally synonymous in the Bible (Deuteronomy 32:30, Psalms 91:7), meaning it most likely was not a literal number that David and Saul had killed, but merely a **comparison of their might.**

### JEALOUSY STARTS TO SET IN

Saul was quick to envy David's success. Not only was Saul somewhat humiliated, but we now see the reality setting in from Samuel's prophecy in chapter 15: **"The Lord has torn the kingship of Israel away from you today and has given it to your neighbor who is better than you."**

- **If we allow pride and selfishness to guide our character, God's plan is easily resisted.**

### ANGER AND ENVY (1 SAMUEL 18:10-19)

#### ANOTHER EVIL SPIRIT

Just as we learned in chapter 16 when, "an evil spirit was sent from God," God does not create evil, but has every ability to control evil. **As presented in Job 1:6-12, Satan is given permission, by God, to rob Job of everything he owned.**

- Not only was the Spirit of God not in Saul, but now, as Saul's jealousy builds, **vengeance fills him to conspire harm against David.**

#### AN EVIL FURY

David has been anointed by the Lord to be King over Israel, thus **evil conspires against good.**

Therefore, Saul "raves" inside the palace. Some translations also state that Saul was prophesying, but this is not like a prophecy from the Lord and instead more of a mindless babbling.

- Evil is eternally opposed to God, and vice versa, and we must be prepared for that opposition.

#### PREPARED FOR OPPOSITION

David had every intention of soothing the rage that was forming inside Saul. He had hands that were skillful in music and war, but Saul responded to his jealousy through violence.

- One man chooses to neutralize danger with peace, and another responds in violence. Saul was also able to relieve his anger in chapter 16, but in chapter 18, it seems his heart is hardened.

#### A HARDENED HEART

There have been moments in the Bible when those in opposition to the Lord have hardened their heart and been **unwilling to respond to God.**

- Not only had the Spirit of God left Saul, but he started trying to eliminate any influence from the Lord. **As Christians, we must be on guard against those that have hardened their hearts and invited the influence of evil.**

## RECOGNITION, MANIPULATION, AND IRONY

When Saul put David in charge of a thousand-man army, **this was no reward, but an intention for David's demise.**

- Saul's position was threatened and he tried to have David killed in battle. **In perfect irony, during David's eventual kingship, he would have a man named Uriah promoted in the same fashion.**

### "WHO AM I?"

The question that David asked was not false humility, but a genuine inquiry to the dowry that would have been expected for marrying into royalty.

- In an attempt to make David angry or jealous once Merab was to be given to David, she was suddenly given away to someone else. **To overcome temptation, we must humble ourselves and lean on God's wisdom.**

### BRIDE-PRICE (1 SAMUEL 18:20-30)

#### A BRIDE FOR DAVID

Now that the union between David and Merab was not going to happen, Saul had to find someone else to be a snare for David.

- **"Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion..."** (1 Peter 5:8). **As Jesus followers, we have a very real enemy that is looking for every opportunity to devour us.**

#### A HIGH PRICE

The way in which Saul presented the bride-price of Michal was so casual. This task should be nothing in comparison to killing Goliath, but Saul had every intention, once again, for David's destruction.

- Just as he has been for eternity, our enemy is coy and manipulative. He will use every opportunity to tempt and destroy!

#### THE PRICE IS MET AND EXCEEDED

Even though the bride-price for Michal was high, David was up for the challenge. Like in the battle with Goliath, he was confident in the Lord's abilities to help fulfill the seemingly tall order.

- **When we are met with adversity by a superior, what is our response?** We should first be confident in the Lord's strength, but also attempt to achieve above and beyond.

#### WHERE IS THE PROOF?

The price of Philistine foreskin was set because being circumcised back then was a sign of the Jewish people being separate from other tribes. This would provide proof, but it would also be extremely difficult.

- Thankfully, **"In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free."**

#### TRUE, GODLY FRIENDS

- Humility was truly woven throughout the friendship of Jonathan and David; are we thought of as humble friends?
- What kind of friends/community do we surround ourselves with?
- **"Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Outdo one another in showing honor"** (Romans 12:10).

#### DAVID GOT AWAY... TWICE

- We are faced with an adversary who wants to destroy us; on whose wisdom do we lean?
- **Even after the first throw of Saul's spear, David did not retaliate! He came back to play again!**
- **Do we follow suit, or allow pride to justify our actions because we have "paid our dues?"**
- **Pride is, "once is (false) submission, but I will not hang around for a second time!"**

#### WE WORK FOR GOD

- **Our reaction to adversity in the leadership in which we report, reveals our heart.**
- David could be trusted with "a little" (shepherding sheep) so he continued to be entrusted with more as God saw fit.
- **How do we act in the spotlight?**
- **Do we perform well in order to be seen, or do we work well because of God's instruction?**