

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 3RD, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

ADVOCATE (1 SAMUEL 19:1-7) STUCK BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

Jonathan is torn between two people. On one hand, Jonathan is ordered by his father, the king, to kill David. On the other hand, Jonathan had formed a wonderful friendship with David, sealed by a covenant (1 Samuel 18:1-4).

- **When faced with tough decisions, we always do what is right in the sight of the Lord** (Deuteronomy 6:18).

DO WE SUBMIT THROUGH BLIND OBEDIENCE?

Jonathan made the tough call and spoke truth to his father concerning David. **It would have been wrong for Jonathan to obey his father and kill David.**

- **We are all under authority and commanded to submit to that authority. However, we are never excused from sin because we obeyed the authority that told us to sin.**

STOPPING EVIL FROM BEING DONE

Jonathan did not stop at refusing to help Saul kill David. He also went to help David escape his father.

- We cannot choose neutrality and say, "I won't participate in this thing I know is wrong, but I also will not do anything to stop it." **Evil is allowed to triumph when we choose neutrality and do nothing.**

"HE HASN'T SINNED AGAINST YOU..."

David had a **friend and an advocate** in Jonathan. Jonathan displayed great **loyalty and courage** by speaking well of David to his father, who did not share the same opinion.

- Saul felt justified in his view of David, but **Jonathan corrected his father**, attempting to reveal that **his anger and jealousy against David were sinful.**

A CORRUPT AND WORTHLESS MIND

Jonathan tried to remind Saul of everything David had done that benefited him and that he had once rejoiced at the defeat of the Philistine.

- Satan had filled Saul's mind with envy and jealousy, and he was unable to see David's pure intentions. **Saul was given over to a reprobate mind** (Romans 1:28) **without the Spirit and a willingness to live for anyone but himself.**

A FALSE OATH

It appears Jonathan's words got through to his father. Saul listened to his son and swore an oath that David would not be killed and had David brought to him to serve him as he did before.

- However, **Saul was not a man of his word, and making oaths to the Lord had no real weight** (Matthew 5:33-37).

DAVID ESCAPES (1 SAMUEL 19:8-17) THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

There was a temporary halt on the war between Saul and David as the war "**broke out again**" between Israel and the Philistines.

- The battles we face in our lives will come and go, leaving moments of temporary peace, but we must never forget there is a spiritual battle being fought. Fortunately, **we know the outcome and the victor, Jesus Christ.**

DAVID DEFEATS THE PHILISTINES... AGAIN

It was jealousy of David's success that led Saul to want to kill him, and **it is only a matter of time before Saul gives into the temptation again because of David's continued success.**

- The evil spirit came on Saul, and he grabbed the spear that was close to him and threw it at David ... again. **We, too, will trip up if the temptation to sin is kept close at hand.**

THERE WOULD NOT BE A FOURTH ATTEMPT

David was able to escape Saul's spear and fled that night from the men sent to kill him in the morning with the help of his wife, Micah, who was also Saul's daughter.

- David would not return to the palace for 20 years until he was king of Israel. From the day David fled up until Saul's death, David would live as a fugitive.

MICHAL WAS TO BE A TRAP FOR DAVID (18:21)

Like her brother, Michal loved David and warned him of the plot to have him killed.

- She used an idol in the house to help David escape, and then when the hoax was revealed, she lied to Saul, claiming that David had forced her into helping him. **It seems that Michal lacked trust in the Lord and would grow to despise her husband** (2 Samuel 6:20-23).

PERSISTENT (1 SAMUEL 19:18-24) WHERE DO WE FIND SANCTUARY?

David did the right thing in a difficult situation. **He sought out godly counsel from Samuel in Ramah.** The Hebrew word for "*Naioth*" means "*dwelling*," here referring to a complex of houses where a group of prophets resided.

- **David found sanctuary, a place of refuge or safety, in the presence of God with the people of God.**

SAUL IS PERSISTENT

On three separate occasions, Saul sent a group of men to seize David in Ramah, and each time, the men returned empty-handed, and Saul continued in his relentless pursuit of David.

- **We do not admire the devil's work but should notice his work ethic. The enemy is persistent while we have become lackadaisical in the battle for our families.**

UNUSUAL WORK OF THE SPIRIT

Each time these men on assignment to seize David entered the city, the Spirit of God came powerfully on them, and they began *prophesying*. The Hebrew word gives the image that **these men gave spontaneous and inspired praise to God.**

- These men were not seeking God but **were filled with the Spirit to protect David by disarming those who came to harm him.**

BLINDED BY VENGEANCE

Three times, God told Saul to leave David alone, and three times, he ignored the warning. Now, Saul will take matters into his own hands and go to Ramah.

- Just as the spirit worked through the men sent to kill David, he **worked through Saul again to show him His power and what is available to him if he were only humble and willing.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD, HE REJECTED

Under the inspiration of the Spirit of God and not the evil spirit, Saul "**removed his clothes and prophesied**" until "**he collapsed and lay naked all that day and all that night.**"

- The Hebrew word used for naked indicates that Saul stripped off his royal robes down to his linen undergarments. Saul would not humble himself, so **God stripped him of his kingship.**

NOT SEEN AS A PROPHET OR A KING

Again, we see the question, "**Is Saul also among the prophets?**"

- This repeated question mockingly shows the shock of those who know Saul as an unspiritual man and witnessed him become very spiritual as the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. **Saul is not looked at as a genuine prophet or a legitimate king.**

THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF THE SPIRIT

- There is a difference between being *affected* by the power of God and being *surrendered* to the power of God.
- To be *affected* by the power of God results in an amazing experience.
- To be *surrendered* to the power of God will result in deliverance—a lasting life change.

GOD IS GREATER

- God is greater than "Saul" in us. He is bigger than our pride and jealousy. He is bigger than the vengeance that swells up in us against those who have wronged us.
- God is greater than the "Sauls" that come against us.
- God is greater than our hearts (1 John 3:20) so our feelings do not throw us off course.
- **"He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. He counts the number of the stars; he gives names to all of them. Our Lord is great, vast in power; his understanding is infinite. The Lord helps the oppressed but brings the wicked to the ground"** (Psalms 147:3-6).