

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 3RD, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

TROUBLE (1 SAMUEL 19:1-7) SAME OLD SAUL

David has been more successful than all of Saul's officers in battle, and the people love David. Saul's jealous response is to order the death of David. What had been in his heart when he threw the spear in chapter 18 was now said openly with rage.

- **Troubles come in many forms. Some we can see clearly and some are hidden.**

AN AUTHENTIC FRIEND

Jonathan goes directly to David and warns him of Saul's intentions. As he should, he places himself as a mediator between David and Saul, hoping to talk some sense into his father.

- **Like Jonathan, we shouldn't be quick to give up on broken people. Jonathan still had hope for his father.**

AN EXCELLENT DEFENSE

Because David believed in God, served Israel, and honored the king, Jonathan could speak this truth to Saul. To attack David would be a sin against innocent blood.

- **We should notice that defending an innocent person is much easier than defending a guilty one. Do our actions make it hard for our friends to defend us?**

A WORTHLESS OATH

After Jonathan assured Saul that a living David was better for him than a dead David, Saul swore that David would not be killed.

- We know Saul's oath is meaningless because it wasn't based on David's welfare, only Saul's ambition. Jonathan and Saul had both made promises about David.
What is our motive when we give our word?

DANGER (1 SAMUEL 19:8-18)

BACK TO WAR

Jonathan brought David back into the king's service, and when war broke out, David was back on the front lines. Because God was with him, the Philistines ran in fear.

- **David is forever battling with the enemy in his home or the world. We must remember there will always be trouble, and at times, there will be danger.**

DÉJÀ VU

Saul's constant rejection of God and His plan condemns him to this recurring evil spirit. As David attempts to soothe Saul's torment, Saul throws a spear at him... again.

- David escapes the raging Saul... again. But this time, his wife assures him that Saul truly intends to kill him, that this isn't just a passing rage, and that he must flee from this attack.

DECEIVING THE DECEIVER

Michal wanted to protect David because she "loved" him. We remember from chapter 18 that she loved him with a flirtatious, erotic love.

- David sought protection at home, but Michal could only send him away as she used her fertility idol and lies to ultimately protect herself from the rage she had probably seen in Saul her whole life.

FLED AND ESCAPED

David went to the one place where he might find protection from the mighty king. He had not forgotten Samuel, God's prophet.

- **Where do we go when trouble comes and danger is all around us? Do we have a clear path to a place of protection? If we don't establish those relationships now, we may be alone when the danger comes.**

PROTECTION (1 SAMUEL 19:19-24)

SAUL'S PURSUIT

After David had shared all with Samuel, they went to the residence of the prophets. When Saul's agents came to take David, they were overcome with the Spirit of God. Three groups had attempted to take David, only to be taken by the Spirit of God. So, Saul decides to take matters into his own hands.

- **The enemy will not give up easily.**

SAUL'S WITNESS

When Saul arrives, we see the Spirit of God overrule his intentions, and Saul begins to sing God's praises instead of David's destruction. This is the Spirit of God, not the heart of Saul. His rebellious nature leads him to remove his clothes and lay naked in humiliation and defeat. Saul was out of character, and the people were confused.

DAVID DELIVERED

It seems that Saul has yet to see David at Naioth. David had found a safe place with the people of God. But he would not stay there because his story is just beginning.

- **We will find places of refuge and strengthening, but we must leave these places and return to where we live for Christ, remembering He is with us.**

HELP

- In this chapter, we may see ourselves as David, but we must strive to be like Jonathan.
- **Yes, we need help, but we must be willing to be helpers too.**
- **If we are always weak and needy, who will be left to encourage, comfort, and defend in times of need?**

FRONT LINES

- We must remain faithful as we encourage, comfort, and defend one another.
- **The enemy has no new plan; He will continue throwing spears.**
- **Because the battle is everywhere, we must always be ready to go when and where God would have us go.**

REFUGE

- War is exhausting.
- **If we are always exhausted, we may not be resting well. If we are never exhausted, we may not be in the battle.**
- **It's okay to seek help. It's okay to rest. It's okay to share our burdens and weaknesses honestly. God has given us each other for rest and battle. Are we living life together?**