



Honing in on the Heart!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #36:

‘Saul’s Savagery!’

1st Samuel 19:1-24

Wednesday, May 7th, 2024

Long Time no See, Samuel!

- It has been quite awhile since we’ve been in our Wednesday night study of 1st Samuel.
 - To be exact, the last time we were in our study of 1st Samuel was on November 20th of last year.
- ***We took a break in the series in order to get through our Sermon Series in Mark to time Mark’s account of the Resurrection with Easter Sunday.***
 - For the rest of this year, and next year on Wednesday nights, we will continue our verse-by-verse sermon series through the book of 1st Samuel.

- ***For context purposes, when we last left Samuel, Saul gave David his daughter Michal to be his wife.***
 - One of the reasons that he did this was to ‘create a snare’ for David, according to 1st Samuel 18:21.
 - In that same chapter, Saul wanted David to continue to fight the Philistines so that he may be killed in battle, according to 1st Samuel 18:17.
 - ***When we were last in Samuel, Saul was on a mission to have David killed due to the Jealousy that he had over David that swelled in his heart.***
 - Tonight we continue in this as we look at ‘Saul’s Savagery!’...
 - ***‘Saul’s Savagery!’***
 - ***1st Samuel 19:1-24***

Sermon in a Sentence:

In a Roller Coaster of Emotions, Saul wants David Dead and the savagery of Saul is on display.

Intro:

- The word ‘Savagery’ is defined as the quality of being fierce or cruel.
 - ***Due to the rampant disease of sin, Savagery has existed since the beginning in every generation and in every nation.***
 - ***In 6th Century BC, the Greek ruler, Phalaris, who was known for his***

*extreme cruelty towards mankind,
ordered that a Brazen Bull torturing
invention be made.*

- A person would be placed in the bull and their screams would go through tubes to make it sound like a Bull, a person would literally be baked.
- Phalaris loved such cruel savagery, that the very man who invented the Brazen Bull, was put in it, and became its first victim.

■ *Another example of such extreme cruelty, would have to be the use of Crucifixion that the Romans were known to do.*

■ *The ancient South American societies were also keen on human sacrifices.*

- Sometimes they would sacrifice enemies, slaves, or those in debt, and other times they would sacrifice children.
- Sometimes even being a handsome person, no matter your status, could make you a prime candidate to be sacrificed.

■ *Even today in our own country we find rampant savagery.*

- Worldwide, 200,000 abortions occur on a daily basis.
- Sadly, many of us turn out nose tho this kind of behavior and acts in our own country.

○ *When we let sin run wild in our lives it can lead to savagery in our own actions that we never would have dreamt of.*

- This doesn't have to necessarily be physical, but also mental and emotional.

● *Human beings are cruel, and in our text tonight, we see that Saul is no exception to this. His obsessive nature combined with his paranoia and savagery, he wants his son in law dead, and tonight we will see the different strategies he uses to attempt to accomplish this evil task... Murder.*

Question to Ask:

How does Samuel's intentions of Killing David unfold as a Roller Coaster in this chapter and what can we learn?

Truth #1: *A Helpful Friend.* (vv. 1-7)

- 'And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David. **2** And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. **3** And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to

my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you.” 4 And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. 5 For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?” 6 And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, “As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death.” 7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.’

- ***Tonight is really the beginning of a long story that is going to continue throughout much of the rest of the narrative in Samuel of Saul trying to Kill David.***
 - Johnathan returns to the narrative in Samuel here in this text and we see that he truly is a helpful friend, because he stands up to his own dad, in order to save his friend’s life.
 - ***Back in 1st Samuel 18, Saul had used the Philistines to try and kill David, but now, he is taking this into his own hands.***
 - When we obsess over ungodly things, they can control us and take over our lives.
 - Saul’s fascination with David and having him dead has done just that.

- There are **3** things to point out...

- ***A Top Secret Meeting. (v. 1a)***

- ‘And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David.’
- Saul’s previous plans did not work, so now he summons a secret meeting with his son, and top henchmen.
- The purpose of this meeting?
 - ***To Kill David.***
 - ***Prior to this, Saul’s attitude towards David had pretty much been a secret.***
 - This also means that Saul was not aware that his son was very close to David.
 - ***Why did Saul want David dead so bad?***
 - 1st Samuel 18:30 reveals to us the reason behind Saul’s obsession to have David killed...
 - ‘Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed.’ 1st Samuel 18:30
- ***Saul was so concerned that someone was getting more credit than they were.***
 - To be honest, this happens to us, and especially Christians, and especially in the Church.

- Saul forgot an important detail about his position as King.
 - *That God put him in that position, therefore it was not Saul's Kingdom, but God's Kingdom.*
- *The same thing is true when it comes to the ministries that allow us to lead.*
 - *It does not matter whose name is where, who does what, and who's involved. Nobody in this Church 'OWNS' a single ministry.*
- *We must stop trying to monopolize our ministries and truly give them to God.*
- *A Tricky Intervention. (vv. 1b-5)*
 - 'But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David. **2** And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. **3** And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you." **4** And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. **5** For he took his life in his hand and he

struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?"

- *Johnathan had made a covenant with David and the two were very close friends. So when Johnathan heard his father openly express his desire to kill David, I'm sure all the alarms in Johnathan's mind went off.*
 - In verses 2-3, Jonathan warns David and lets him know that he's got to hide. It's not safe for him because of his father's anger and unpredictability.
- *The fact that Jonathan goes to David right after the top secret meeting, shows that Johnathan chose his side.*
 - *This isn't just about how great David is a friend to Johnathan, but also Johnathan see's just how 'unhinged' his father's actions are.*
 - Parents, your children watch how you respond, and they are smart enough to know when you're annoyed, or when your behavior has become erratic. There is a difference.
- *Jonathan then acts as a 'go between' between Saul and David.*

- The text is clear in verse 3 that Johnathan wants to bring his dad to a field within ear and eye shot so that David can witness this for himself.
- *Then in verses 4-5, Jonathan gives his best sales pitch to his father in hopes to save his friend...*
 - Jonathan tries to reason with his Father.
- This is Johnathan's rational in verses 4-5:
 - *Solid Reasons.*
 - *Moral Compass.*
 - *Theological Significance.*
 - As we will see in verses 6-7, for now, this will suffice, but later on things are just going to get worse. Why?
- *You can't convince someone what is right from wrong when they think that they are never wrong to begin with... Don't be this person...*
- *A Temporary Promise. (vv. 6-7)*
 - 'And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death." 7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.'
 - For now, it seems as Johnathan had worked out this difficulty.

- *Saul Swore that he wouldn't kill David and Johnathan brings David back to the presence of Saul.*
- *But until Saul deals with his personal sin problem and idolization of self, this situation will only escalate, not die down.*
 - Words mean nothing until your heart changes before and by God.
- *So far throughout Samuel Saul seems to always respond to good advice in front of the person giving it, but rarely follows it and never gives good advice.*
 - We see the helpful friend, now, a hindered man...

Truth #2: *A Hindered Man. (vv. 8-10)*

- 'And there was war again. And David went out and fought with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him. 9 Then a harmful spirit from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre. 10 And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.'
- It's unknown how much time went by between verse 7 and verse 8.
 - *I don't believe that it had been years, but we are unsure.*

- David was back in the palace, and war had broken out, so that means that it was David's job yet again, to come to Israel's rescue.
 - *We shouldn't be surprised that there was war again, especially with the enemy being the Philistines, because war with the Philistines had been going on since 1st Samuel chapter 4.*
 - *Ever since their Goliath plan had been an abysmal failure, they were constantly trying to get back at the Israelites and especially David.*
- In verses 8-10 we see a hindered man, but there are also 3 things to point out...
- **God uses the Lowly... (v. 8)**
 - 'And there was war again. And David went out and fought with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him.'
 - Remember in the beginning of this book when David was a poor, stinky shepherd boy that no one thought was worth anything?
 - *Now, God is using him mightily for His Glory.*
 - *He has equipped David to do things he never would have been able to do before.*
 - As we see in these verses, this infuriates Saul to the point that he is reenergized to want to kill David again...

- *Instead of rooting David on and encouraging him, realizing they were on the same team, Saul gets more and more jealous.*
 - When a sister Church, or friend, family members, different SS class or ministry are succeeding and thriving, do we get envious? Or do we root them on?
 - How we respond to the ministry success of others reveals in our hearts where our heart is in ministry.
 - *Is your heart on building God's Kingdom, or building your own kingdom?*
- **Saul Eaten Alive. (v. 9)**
 - 'Then a harmful spirit from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre.'
 - This is the third time that the Scriptures tell us that an evil spirit visited Saul.
 - *This evil spirit that came on Saul was a direct consequence of his setting himself against the Lord, and against His anointed.*
 - When you choose to go against God's man and the leaders that God Has put into place, you better watch out.
 - Just a few minutes ago we saw in verse 6 that Saul swore an oath promising that David would be safe, now, already, he's gone back on it.

- *As David seeks to bring relief to Saul by playing the harp, Saul is ready to make another attempt to kill him.*
 - Imagine the warfare of the mind that had to be going on in Saul's mind as he sat there, tormented mentally with spear in hand. Wanting to kill the musician right in front of him.
- *David Eludes Death, Again! (v. 10)*
 - 'And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.'
 - *David doesn't elude death because he's so elusive or shifty, he eludes death again, for a third time, because he is God's man, and has God's protection over his life.*

Truth #3: *The Hiding Continues.* (vv. 11-17)

Truth #4: *The Holy One Captivates.* (vv. 18-24)