



### *Honing in on the Heart!’ Sermon Series*

#### **Sermon #37:**

#### **‘Saul’s Savagery! Part 2’**

**1st Samuel 19:11-24**

Wednesday, May 14th, 2024

#### **Last Week in 1st Samuel:**

- Last week in Samuel we looked at 1st Samuel 19:1-10, in part 1 of a 2 part message entitled ‘Saul’s Savagery!’.
- I asked the question: *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)**
- **Truth #2: A Hindered Man. (vv. 8-10)**
- So tonight I want us to continue as we look at verses 11-24 of this saga between Saul and David and Saul wanting David killed.

#### **‘Saul’s Savagery! Part 2’**

**1st Samuel 19:11-24**

#### **Sermon in a Sentence:**

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

#### **Intro:**

- Last week we got to step into the shallow end of Saul’s savagery.
  - *We looked at how Saul was ready to kill David, and Johnathan stepped in.*
  - *Where we left on in verse 10, David had to flee yet again, because Saul had tried to kill him with a spear!*
    - Some may think that Saul would finally quit at this point, obviously people were seeing this occur in the palace.
  - ***But when a person is so deep in sin, it clouds everything including caring what others think.***
    - The whole land was beginning to see that there was a mad man in the highest office of the land.
- **\*Illustration\***
  - The movie the patriot, Captain Tarelton created a monster ‘Captain Martin’ who was a character loosely based on Swamp Fox.

- Talk about the trick to get the soldiers out by making scarecrows of British officers...
  - Similar to that, Michal, Saul's own daughter is going to do something quite similar to that here.

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

- 'Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, told him, "If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." **12** So Michal let David down through the window, and he fled away and escaped. **13** Michal took an image[a] and laid it on the bed and put a pillow of goats' hair at its head and covered it with the clothes. **14** And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick." **15** Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." **16** And when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats' hair at its head. **17** Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go. Why should I kill you?'"
- Back in verse 10 where we learned that David left and went home, I'm sure David thought at home, with the

King's Daughter, he would be safe. Right? Saul wouldn't do anything with his daughter in the home?

- *But when a person, like Saul here, is possessed by Satan and not by God, anything is possible.*

- *I'm often asked the question as a Christian and a Pastor, 'Why does God allow bad things to happen?'*

- The answer I give is that *Sin* is present in the world due to the freewill of mankind.

- *And in this text I believe it's clear that sin clouded Saul's vision to see and think clearly.*

- When a human being (whether knowingly or unknowingly) chooses to sin and live in sin, it will cause them to do things Biblically and morally unfathomable.

- *As hard as it is, Saul gives us a great example in this text that we shouldn't be surprised when non-believers commit egregious sins.*

- Last week Saul's desire to have David killed tear apart his relationship with Jonathan (though he doesn't know it yet), and tonight we will see a similar thing occur in his relationship with Michal.

- I think there are 3 things to look at here:
- ***The Inches in the Window... (vv. 11-12)***
  - ‘Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, told him, “If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed.” 12 So Michal let David down through the window, and he fled away and escaped.’
  - ***Saul, being the coward that he was, sent men to go and kill David, not that he was going to do the killing himself.***
  - ***David's wife, Michal, was also Saul's daughter as we learned earlier in our study of 1st Samuel (1st Samuel 14:49 and 1st Samuel 18:20).***
    - Perhaps it's possible that Saul was going to lie to Michal about having had nothing to do with her husband's passing, we aren't sure.
    - ***Perhaps Saul sent men instead of going himself because he didn't want to face his daughter and for his daughter to have a realization of who her father really was.***
      - ***As I have said throughout this series, your children will one day realize who you really are***

***and there will be nothing you can do to hide it.***

- Saul can't hide it anymore. I believe Michal already has a good idea just who her dad is... Meaning his character.
- ***Now, a big question that arises here for me personally, is how did Michal know that her father wanted to kill David.***
  - It's possible that Saul thought more highly of his relationship with his daughter than it really was and told her? Maybe thinking that he could put a wedge in the middle of their marriage?
  - Maybe the Lord Himself revealed to her, we don't know, the text doesn't tell us.
  - ***The text does tell us that Michal does something to give David a heads up.***
- ***But we do know that like her brother Johnathan, Michal was committed to David much more than she was her father.***
  - In verse 12, Michael lets David down a window.
  - It's likely for this time period that David's house would have been built

similarly to Rahab's home in Jericho that was probably built into the town wall. So, to escape through the window, would be to get out of town.

- *By the town's design and God's providence, David didn't have to run through the city streets to get to safety. Out the window, and into the countryside.*
- 'Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall.'  
Joshua 2:15

○ *For now, this event would go on to save David's life...*

- *The Idol. (vv. 13)*
  - 'Michal took an image[a] and laid it on the bed and put a pillow of goats' hair at its head and covered it with the clothes.'
  - *Now that David is on the run, what does Michal do to stall and save time for herself and for David?*
  - Well with verse 13, this is where things get quite interesting...
    - The word 'image' here comes from the Hebrew word **'Teraphim'** תִּרְפִּים occurs 15 times in the OT and every

time it occurs it carries the meaning an idol.

- Another example of one of the 15 times that this word occurs in the OT is found in **Genesis 31**, when Jacob was running from Laban.
- Rachel deceived her Father, Laban, over 'house gods' that are referenced in Genesis 31:34-35 and the same Hebrew word **'Teraphim'** is used there.
- This same word, **'Teraphim'** is translated to 'idolatry' in 1st Samuel 15:23.

○ *Now we must ask the question, what are Michal and David doing with a false god, an idol, in their house?*

■ *Most scholars agree that this item, an idol, was probably Michal's as a means of ownership. It belonged to her.*

- The usage of the Hebrew word **'Teraphim'** by the author in 1st Samuel 15:23 and here, signifies the fact that Michal was as much as a spiritual rebel as her father.
  - **For context:** in 1st Samuel 15:23, the Prophet Samuel had suggested that Saul's

rebellious acts were equitable to the 'evil of Teraphim', a pagan and false god at the time.

- Robert D. Bergen, a scholar on the book of Samuel, stated, '*There is foreshadowing that the outcome of Michal's life is the feminine counterpart to Saul.*'
  - Due to Saul's spiritual rebellion he is going to lose his right to a dynasty.
  - Michal will lose her opportunity to have a family, according to 2nd Samuel 6:23.
    - 'And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.' 2nd Samuel 6:23
- *I personally feel that Psalms 59 was written in the context of this situation.*
  - In other words, **Psalm 59** was written with this situation in David's mind:
- *Despite the potential of Michal's probable pagan leanings, the rest of the narrative does in fact link her to some of the previous heroines that are mentioned in the Old Testament.*
- **The Illusion. (vv. 14-17)**
  - 'And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick." **15** Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." **16** And

when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats' hair at its head. **17** Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go. Why should I kill you?'"

- **This is not the first or last time in the Bible that the hero of the moment achieves his or her noble purpose by telling a lie.**
- **When this happens, this is what we should keep in our minds:**
  - **#1: The Bible places a high value on truth and truthfulness. So these incidents in scripture do shock us. Lies and deception in Scripture are understood to be evil. Samuel even said earlier in 1st Samuel 15:29, that God will not lie. We must take it seriously that God does not lie. He is truth.**
  - **#2: To lie is an act of hostility. When Rahab lied, it meant that she was taking the side of the Israelites and not her own people.**
    - This is what makes Michal's lie perplexing. She is lying to her own father, and treating him (Saul) as the enemy.

- This is because according to 1st Samuel 18:29, Saul had made himself an enemy of David. She was being loyal to her husband...
- *Surely there are many more reasons we could come up with as to why a person in the Bible would lie.*
  - *But we must be careful to not oralize these Biblical incidents and excuse sin.*
  - These lies are included in Scripture because they are part of the narrative and would not be the whole story if they weren't included.
- *For me personally, this topic as well as this situation with Michal, are situations where we must trust God and let Him be the judge on any and all situations that may confuse us.*
- In verse 14, Michal's illusion successfully tricks the soldiers that Saul sent.
  - Once they return to Saul and then give him the report, Saul sends them back and says this in verse 15.
    - 'Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him."
    - *I find it plausible that maybe he knew his daughter Michal was deceiving and cunning? Maybe*

*he knows she attempted to fool them?*

- *He's probably not too surprised that deception could be a possibility because she may have gotten it from him... (Your kids do watch you, closely).*
- *Verse 15 also reveals that Saul is willing to kill a sick man. In all reality, he doesn't care what kind of condition he's in, Saul's own ego demands that he is dead.*
- Verses 16-17 seem grim to me, simply because we see a really strong foreshadowing and resemblance between Saul and his daughter Michal.
- Now that the soldiers have reported back to Saul, Michal's father wants an explanation, of course...
  - 'And when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats' hair at its head. 17 Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go. Why should I kill you?'"

- *The translation here in the ESV doesn't help us out a ton, but let me explain what's going on here in these verses:*
  - Michal was called up to testify to her Father. Knowing her father's rage (having a front row seat to it as a child), I'm sure she was terrified.
  - Her response was convenient and probably not convincing, but it was cunning.
    - *Because if her father did take the bait, it would further fuel his rage to kill David.*
  - She said that David threatened her with death, although we know this didn't happen, we have no other witnesses.
    - *Michal is obviously playing both sides here, but in her mind, her husband has a head start, he's out running for his life while she's still stalling her angry father.*
  - *If Saul were to accept her side of the story, then David had threatened a member of the royal household, which would have incriminated him even more.*
    - But the one piece of evidence that I believe still supports the

fact that Michal let David out the window is the fact that she did put an idol in the bed pretending to be David.

- *There is no counter to this, in my opinion.*

## Truth #2: *The Holy One Captivates.* (vv. 18-24)

- One of the most interesting narratives in Scriptures continues to elevate in terms of entertainment but also spiritual edification.
  - 'Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth. **19** And it was told Saul, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah." **20** Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. **21** When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. **22** Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" And one said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." **23** And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he

went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. **24** And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

- There’s a lot to unpack here, but let me point out **4** things that I find important in this text:

- **Reassurance. (v. 18)**
  - ‘Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth.’
  - When a Man of God is down and out, there are times where the most comfort they will feel is with other men of God that know how they feel.
    - ***To be honest, and I certainly don’t want to come across as rude, you can’t know what a Pastor or preacher of God’s Word goes through until you’ve been there and done that.***
- ***David is running for his life and he runs to the spiritual leader of Israel, at least in his mind for now, the one who got him into this mess, Samuel. (Samuel did anoint David as God directed him to)***
  - The reason that David went to Ramah is because this was Samuel’s hometown and probably where Samuel ‘retired’. ***But Samuel is a great example of those in ministry whom God has***

***placed a calling on your life, we never actually retire.***

- ***Our ‘duties’ and ‘jobs’ may lessen, but we don’t retire and don’t have a scriptural license to retire.***
  - This would have been a three mile journey for David.
  - He’d rather go to where God’s man was than to go home...
- ***I truly believe that this initial encounter that David has with Samuel once he gets to Ramah, Samuel is able to have great empathy for David because as 1st Samuel 16:2 indicates, Samuel had been in a very similar spot as David...***
  - ‘And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”
  - ***This is a great example of God using our past experiences to be able to help others with what they will and might face...***
- The term ‘Naioth’ that you find in verse 18 may refer to a ‘shepherds camp’. The prophetic fraternities of the Bible in Israel often lived in such settlements.



- *The ‘name’ and ‘title’ of Naioth is so general and vague that they’d be undetected.*
  - God’s man is usually susceptible to human violence due to the truth that they proclaim. I experienced that even this week. It’s a reminder to me personally that I am indeed being faithful to my calling in preaching God’s Word.
- *Rambling words. (v. 19)*
  - ‘And it was told Saul, “Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah.”
  - *Someone, we don’t know who, reported the whereabouts of the fugitive son-in-law to Saul.*
    - I’m sure that Saul had spies and his own men all throughout the countryside.
    - But still, there will always be snitches. Tattletales, as we used to call them.
  - *I am fully aware that Saul probably had scouts all throughout the land, looking for David in every nook and cranny.*
    - But, I am a full believer that if it doesn’t involve you, mind your own business.
    - *Rambling words of yours can become a Rambling Ruin for someone else.*
- *Revival Breaks out. (vv. 20-21)*

- ‘Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. **21** When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied.’
- *The messengers/soldiers of Saul, certainly did not expect to have a ‘spiritual awakening’. They were trying to do their military duty and then get out of there.*
  - Now the word ‘**Prophesying**’ that is used here has taken on much debate in the scholarly realm.
  - *Some perceive it as a prophetic word, but as was the case in 1st Samuel 10:5, I believe this is a group of prophets who are in a spiritually induced trance.*
    - *Not necessarily speaking a Word from God or a sermon.*
    - *As John Woodhouse points out in his commentary, we can’t know precisely what this prophesying meant, but here’s what we do know that is paramount to this situation.*

- *That the spirit of the Lord rushed over them, took them captive, and that they were held under the influence of almighty God and no longer the influence of worldly Saul.*

■ **‘Prophesying’ in the OT means different things in different contexts.**

- Saul even sent his messengers/soldiers out three different times (three different sets of soldiers/platoons). And none of them came back. They were held captive by almighty God.

■ ***Another great example that God can do whatever He wants to in whatever ways He chooses to do so. How great is our God?***

- God got ahold of Saul’s men, and eventually, after three military orders, Saul decides enough is enough...

● **Real Power Revealed. (vv. 22-24)**

- ‘Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, “Where are Samuel and David?” And one said, “Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah.” 23 And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in

Ramah. 24 And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

- Saul may have had the thought, ‘If you want to do something right, you’ve got to do it yourself!’

■ ***Not sure if he did have those thoughts or not, but after three military groups were sent out and didn’t come back, and a scout said that God got involved, Saul decides to set out. In doing so, I think he shows that he thinks he can take care of it himself.***

- He wants David dead so bad that he’ll do the unthinkable and leave his palace (*probably* with a military entourage of course).

○ ***Saul stopped on the way to find David to request ‘more accurate’ information for the man he sought to kill, but once he got there, the powerful man quickly became powerless.***

- In verse 23 we are told that the Spirit of God came upon him.
- When the Spirit of God comes upon you there is nothing else that you can do.

○ ***The Spirit of God went over Saul to protect David and others, but don’t equate this to ‘Saul***

*getting saved'. I don't think that's the case at all...*

- Notice that the Father (Saul) does unwillingly what the son (Johnathan) did willingly.
  - 'And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.' 1st Samuel 18:4
- **Remember Church family, God will not be mocked. Those who set themselves against the Lord and His anointed will not prevail.**
- I don't believe this particular situation gives evidence for 'Saul finding God', instead, I believe God stopped Saul from doing what his sinful nature inclined him to do...

#### Conclusion:

- The material found in tonight's text is certainly heavy. Saul's savagery was so extreme...
  - *But may you and I remember, daily, 'there go I but by God's Grace'.*
  - *If we aren't careful, sin can blind us so easily, that God may momentarily stop us from hurting others, or permanently take us out...*
    - He can do both....
- *We saw that...*
  - The Hiding Continued. (vv. 11-17)

- The Holy One Captivates. (vv. 18-24)

- **My question for you, has the Holy One, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Heaven. Has He Captivated your heart?**
  - *If so, does your life reflect that?!*