


First Baptist Church
Canton
Gather. Grow. Go.

**'HONING IN ON THE
HEART!'**



**A VERSE-BY-VERSE SERIES ON THE BOOK OF
1ST SAMUEL
DURING WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN 2024**

Honing in on the Heart!' Sermon Series

Sermon #23:

'Children, Learn from Your Parents' Mistakes!'

Wednesday, August 14th, 2024

Last week in 'Honing in on the Heart:

- *Last week we looked at 1st Samuel 13:1-23 with a sermon entitled 'Taking Matters into Your Own Hands!'*
 - In that chapter, we looked at how Saul tried to take matters into his own hands.
- Last week I asked the question: *How does Saul show us the devastation that can come with taking matters into our own hands?*
 - **Point 1: Puffed Up Ego. (V. 1-7)**
 - **Point 2: Pushy Exchange. (V. 8-14)**
 - **Point 3: Persistent Engagements. (V. 15-23)**

- Based on last week's message, has God convicted you on situations when you've taken things into your own hands instead of obeying Him and putting it in His Hands?
 - **God can't solve problems in our lives that we aren't willing to give to Him.**
- Tonight, we focus more on Johnathan, Saul's Son.

'Children, Learn from Your Parents' Mistakes!'

1st Samuel 14:1-23

Sermon in a Sentence:

In this passage we see Jonathan learn from his father's mistakes, when we see his drive to fight, the decision to have faith, the dedication to follow through, and the deliverance that came directly from the Lord.

Intro:

- Last week we were introduced to Jonathan (Saul's son), for the first time.
 - **Tonight we are told more about him and his great victory that he will achieve.**
- ***As we study and get to know Johnathan more tonight, I want us to see how Children can learn from the mistakes and mishaps of their parents.***
 - **For years, we've heard the phrase 'generational curses', while this is a very real thing, it can be defeated. These generational habits (a better term for it), can be broken.**

- In other words, just because your mother or father may have made a bad decision or chose a lifestyle that does not honor the Lord, does not mean that you have to do the same thing.
 - *While we get so much from our parents and we should honor them, be respectful, love and take care of them, we don't have to do everything that they did.*
- *See, it's incredible that the caliber of man such as Johnathan, was actually Saul's son.*
 - Growing up, Jonathan did not have a great example of what a good leader, father, and warrior looked like.
 - *Yet in this chapter tonight, we will find that Jonathan became a great man and warrior for Israel.*
 - Unlike his dad, Jonathan became a man of faith, one who depended on the Lord.
- *Saul was able to have a great son simply because his son sought the Lord and allowed the Lord to shape his heart and his mind.*
 - I'm sure that there were days when Jonathan looked at the decisions that his dad made and thought to himself 'when I grow up, I don't want to do that'.

- Sure enough, he learned from his Dad's mistakes, and we get to see this portion of 1st Samuel unfold tonight.
- *W.W. said this about Jonathan 'It's a remarkable blessing of the grace of God that a man like Saul should have a son so magnificent as Jonathan. He was a courageous warrior, a born leader, and a man of faith who sought to do the will of God. As the account progresses, it becomes clear that Saul is jealous of Jonathan and his popularity, and this jealousy increases when Jonathan and David become devoted friends.'*

Read 1st Samuel 14:1-23

Question to Ask:

How does this passage show us that Jonathan learned from the mistakes that his dad had already made as a man and as king of Israel?

Point 1: *The Drive to Fight. (V. 1-5)*

- Here in the first five verses of chapter 14, we have the first use of a common pattern that will be used by the writer of 1st Samuel for the remainder of the book.
 - *Here in these verses, the narrator draws a very sharp contrast between Jonathan and his father.*
 - This will continue throughout the book.
- *From the time that we were introduced to Saul earlier in 1st Samuel, we have seen instances where Saul did not want to fight the enemy (Philistines).*

- *Several times in this series we've discussed just how passive Saul really seemed to be.*
 - Which is why it's so interesting that Jonathan wants to go out and fight the enemy.
- *Jonathan got his first taste of battle in 1st Samuel 13. While Jonathan did defeat a garrison, he also woke up a sleeping giant and caused more fighting for the Israelites.*
 - But, what we see in these verses, is that Jonathan has the drive and willingness to fight.
- *Saul would fight battles because he had to do so. Not because he wanted to do so to protect the Israelite people.*
 - I believe there are 3 things to point out concerning the drive Jonathan had to fight.
- *The Relationship between Father and Son. (V. 1)*
 - 'One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side." But he did not tell his father.'
 - *This is the first hint that we get in the scriptures that all may have not been well between father and son.*
 - Do you remember where we left off last week in our study?
- *From a human standpoint, Israel is at a hopeless point in their nation's history.*
 - The army had disbanded, they were outnumbered and they didn't even have the proper weapons to be able to put up a fight.
- *In order for the tides to turn on Israel's situation, they need an Exodus 14 situation to happen.*
- *But Jonathan looked at his armor bearer, and wanted to go out to the garrison and fight.*
 - Sidenote: What is an armor bearer?
 - *Armor-bearers accompanied the military leaders to bring along extra weapons and defensive equipment that would be expended during a battle (arrows, javelins, shields). They sometimes aided the soldiers and positioned shields for them.*
- While everyone is hiding and staying away from the garrison (including Saul), Jonathan wants to go and fight the enemy.
 - *It's possible that Jonathan saw his father's cowardness or his lack of drive and initiative, and wanted to go and take care of the enemy.*

- But I also don't think you can deny the fact Jonathan had a fearless faith.
 - *Perhaps what was on Jonathan's mind is one of the promises in the Torah, found in **Deuteronomy 28:7**.*
 - 'The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.'
 - *As we see the scriptures unfold tonight before our eyes, we see that God took the faith of this one man (who didn't have a good example), and would rescue His people.*
- **The Rest that Saul was having. (V. 2-3)**
 - 'Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah in the pomegranate cave[a] at Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred men, 3 including Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, son of Phinehas, son of Eli, the priest of the LORD in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.'
 - *The narrator takes a quick break from Jonathan, and focuses in on what his dad is up to.*
- *Verse 4 tells us that Saul was further away from the enemy and would have been back up in the hills.*
 - Saul was on the outskirts of Gibeah.
 - **This would have been further south.**
- It is more likely that Saul was sitting under a pomegranate tree, rather than in a pomegranate cave, John Woodhouse said '*Staying could be translate 'sitting,' probably under a pomegranate tree rather than in a cave.*'
 - *Notice here that the writer of 1st Samuel is creating a very stark contrast.*
 - The father (who is militarily responsible for all of this), is sitting under a tree, probably sulking.
 - While his son is scaling rocks and trees to go and defeat the enemy...
- **While Jonathan has his armor bearer, Saul has with him an ephod bearer. We see this in the names that are mentioned with the people that were with Saul.**
 - An Ephod was a priestly garment that contained Urim and Thummim. Urim means 'lights' Thummim meant 'perfection.'

- *These terms are strange to us today, but according to Exodus 28:6-30, these devices were used in ancient Israel to obtain divine guidance in a situation.*
 - *While we are tempted to think that it's a good thing that Saul went and got the priests, notice that Icabod's nephew, is with him.*
 - Remember that Icabod means 'where is the glory?' from 1st Samuel 4:21-22.
 - *We are also reminded that Icabod's father was Phineas, who was the evil priest who was son of Eli.*
 - God punished them and they fell under judgment.
 - *And with just 600 measly and miserable soldiers Saul seems hopeless as the situation brought up bad memories in a bad situation.*
- *The Rocky Path Jonathan took. (V. 4-5)*
 - 'Within the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistine garrison, there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side. The name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. 5 The one crag rose on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba.'
 - *Crag can be defined as a steep or rugged cliff or rock face in the English.*
 - **Word Study**

- 'Crag' is translated from a Hebrew word '*Sela*' סֶלַע which literally means 'the teeth of rocks'.
 - While Jonathan took a rocky path, in this part of the world there really would not have been any other path that wouldn't have been rocky.
 - *The use of the Hebrew word 'Sela' is important though, because it gives the connotation in the Hebrew text that Jonathan and the armor bearer were able to have protection of the 'teeth' of the rocks.*
 - *The terms 'Bozez' and 'Seneh' were believed to have been terms that would have been familiar to the locals of that region.*
 - Scholar Robert D. Bergen points out '*the site was well known to the locals who had given names for the rock formations.*'
 - Bozez means 'the gleaming one' and Seneh means 'the thorny one'.
 - *Perhaps with the protection of the teeth of the rocks, and the two rock formations, Jonathan and the armor bearer could get into the garrison pretty much unprotected...*

Point 2: *The Decision to have Faith. (V. 6)*

- ‘Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few.”’
 - *Verse 6 is an astounding piece of evidence that shows the faith that Jonathan possessed.*
 - *His father had broken the covenant of the Lord when it came to the sacrificing laws just a chapter earlier, and he would break the laws even more.*
 - *Due to the consequences, Jonathan would not be king of Israel because of his dad’s poor choices.*
 - Yet he still decides to try and do the right thing, he puts his faith in the Lord.
 - *It can be tempting to look at this situation and think this is just a teenage boy trying to make a name for himself.*
 - To me, this is the opposite. Jonathan had a dad that didn’t follow God like he should have, but Jonathan did not let that stop him from following God like he should have.
 - *Just because you may have not had Godly parents, Godly raising or a Godly home does not give anyone an excuse for not following God themselves.*
- There are **2** strong implications that verse 6 reveals to us...
 - ***Jonathan Recognizes what an Unbeliever is. (V. 6a)***
 - ‘Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised.’
 - *The Hebrew word that ‘uncircumcised’ is translated from has religious connotations.*
 - The fact that Jonathan says this, shows that he knew the Philistines were not believers of the one true God.
 - *This may not seem like a big deal, but it really is because many of the Israelite people would mix in with other nations throughout their history and worship false gods.*
 - *Jonathan recognizes that they are not in the covenant of Yahweh, and not in the faith.*
 - The philistines were not a part of God’s people as is prescribed in Genesis 17:10-14.
 - ***Jonathan Rests in the Power of the Lord. (V. 6b)***
 - ‘It may be that the LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few.’
 - *It is obvious that Jonathan is resting in the power of the Lord. Completely unlike his father, who would rather do things himself, than trust in God.*

- We need to realize that Jonathan is not resting in God’s power in a time of milk and honey.
- *There is no reason for optimism due to the beating the Israelites just took and the fact that the King and only 600 soldiers are hanging out by a pomegranate tree far from the enemy...*
 - Jonathan is not showing optimism, instead, he is showing real and raw faith in God.
- *When we show faith in God in the most dire of circumstances, it allows Him to be seen more than when we try to get in the way.*
 - Dale Ralph Davis said *‘But faith can arise even when no reason for optimism exists.’*
- Rest in God no matter what circumstances rage in front of you.
 - So far tonight we’ve seen the drive to fight, the decision to have faith, next we see...

Point 3: *The Dedication to Follow Through. (V. 7-15)*

- *Now that Jonathan and the armor bearer have arrived to the Philistine garrison, they are going to come up with a plan.*
 - Several things to consider here, is that it’s just Jonathan and the armor bearer.

- *They don’t know how many people are in the camp, yet they go in, and they fight this battle.*
- It’s one thing to travel through the gorge and get into the camp, but it’s a whole different thing to actually be dedicated to following through.
 - I believe there are **3** things to point out concerning their dedication to follow through.
- ***The Planning. (V. 8-12)***
 - ‘Then Jonathan said, “Behold, we will cross over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them. **9** If they say to us, ‘Wait until we come to you,’ then we will stand still in our place, and we will not go up to them. **10** But if they say, ‘Come up to us,’ then we will go up, for the LORD has given them into our hand. And this shall be the sign to us.” **11** So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, “Look, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves.” **12** And the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor-bearer and said, “Come up to us, and we will show you a thing.” And Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, “Come up after me, for the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel.”
 - *Jonathan comes up with a plan, and here it is:*

- At a certain distance, Jonathan and the armor bearer would come walking through the valley and see what kind of reaction they would get from the Philistines.
 - **Based on the reaction of the Philistines, that would dictate how they would respond.**
 - **The English really doesn't do verses 11-12 justice, in the Hebrew text, this is the sense we get from what is written:**
 - **The Philistines can't believe the Hebrews would just walk up to them like this.**
 - The word 'hailed' here has a condescending meaning, not a happy welcome.
 - **When the text says in verse 11 'look, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves' is actually the Philistines comparing them to animals.**
 - Demeaning them.
 - **This is a taunting session. What people in our culture today would call a 'roast' session.**
 - The Philistines invited Jonathan and the armor bearer to come up to them, and 'we will show you a thing'.
 - **In the Hebrew text, this meant they would punish them and more than likely, kill them.**
- **Jonathan interprets this invitation as a divine confirmation from God that he was to attack and that God would supply the victory.**
 - One of the biggest differences that we see early on between Jonathan and Saul, is that Jonathan depends on the Lord to fight his battles, while Saul depends on human armies and might.
 - **Jonathan's response reveals where he stands with God in his heart.**
 - 'Come up after me, for the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel.'
 - **The Lord was about to use Jonathan's faith as a catalyst to save the entire nation.**
 - When we put faith in God, He can use it far beyond what we can.
 - **The Power. (V. 13-14)**
 - 'Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him. **14** And that first strike, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow's length in an acre[c] of land.'
 - While it was Jonathan and the Armor Bearer who climbed up on their hands and knees, it was

God who allowed them to kill 20 Philistines that day.

- *All of this started because of the faith that Jonathan had in his God.*
 - *Jonathan and the Armor Bearer had to climb up top because the Philistine garrison would have been on top of a mountain.*
- Robert D. Bergen pointed out *‘Perhaps the task was made even more challenging by stones and arrows rained down on them from the Philistines.’*
 - We can’t humanly explain why two men were able to defeat 20, but when we add God into this equation, it is entirely possible and likely, because there’s nothing He can’t do.
- The phrase in verse 14 *‘killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow’s length in an acre of land’*, this simply means that it would have been an half acre of land that the 20 dead man laid in.
- *The Providence of God caused Panic. (V. 15)*
 - ‘And there was a panic in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and even the raiders trembled, the earth quaked, and it became a very great panic.’

- *Naturally, the fact that two men were able to successfully kill 20, caused panic among the Philistine people.*
 - All across the Philistine army and nation, panic rang out in the land.
- The phrase ‘the earth quaked’ is important for us to understand.
 - *Most scholars agree that this is a reference to an earthquake.*
- **Word Study**
 - The word ‘quaked’ in the english comes from the Hebrew word ‘Ragaz’ רָגַז which literally means to cause a shake, make tremble, and to quake.’
 - *Within the context of this in the Hebrew text it gives the idea and allusion that someone or something, made the earth quake.*
 - Of course, we know that God caused the earth quake.
- *This was done to send the Philistines into a panic and for them to see, that it was the God of Israel who was in charge.*
 - Even if Saul didn’t like battle and was a coward, God showed the nation that it was He (God Himself), who was really in charge, no matter who’s on the throne.

We need to remember that in regards to our own nation, don't we?

Point 4: *The Deliverance From the Lord. (V. 16-23)*

- Verses 16-23 describe the reaction of Saul and his 600 soldiers from the heroic acts of Jonathan and the Amor Bearer.
 - ‘And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and behold, the multitude was dispersing here and there.[e] **17** Then Saul said to the people who were with him, “Count and see who has gone from us.” And when they had counted, behold, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were not there. **18** So Saul said to Ahijah, “Bring the ark of God here.” For the ark of God went at that time with the people[f] of Israel. **19** Now while Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the camp of the Philistines increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, “Withdraw your hand.” **20** Then Saul and all the people who were with him rallied and went into the battle. And behold, every Philistine's sword was against his fellow, and there was very great confusion. **21** Now the Hebrews who had been with the Philistines before that time and who had gone up with them into the camp, even they also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. **22** Likewise, when all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the

Philistines were fleeing, they too followed hard after them in the battle. **23** So the LORD saved Israel that day. And the battle passed beyond Beth-aven.’

- ***There are so many incredible little details to point out and expound upon regarding the Deliverance that the Lord did that day for Israel.***
 - Verse 23 really and truly, describes it all.
 - ‘So the LORD saved Israel that day. And the battle passed beyond Beth-aven.’ 1 Samuel 14:23
 - But, let's look at how it happened...
- ***The Realization. (V. 16-17)***
 - ‘And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and behold, the multitude was dispersing here and there.[e] **17** Then Saul said to the people who were with him, “Count and see who has gone from us.” And when they had counted, behold, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were not there.’
 - ***Notice that Saul doesn't realize himself that the battle is going on, he has a watchman that seemingly works for him and the watchmen notifies him.***
 - Saul notices that a battle is going on and he wants to see who in his 600 person

army is not accounted for to see who stirred the enemy up.

○ ***Word Study***

- The word ‘dispersing’ in the English is extremely important to look at in the Hebrew and creates an incredible metaphor of how God can take what we think is solid, and melt it.
- **‘Dispersing’** comes from the Hebrew word **‘Mug’ מִגַּג** *which literally means to melt and waste away. To soften and to be tossed about.*

○ ***The metaphor here that should give every believer in this room confidence, is that God melts away the ‘solid’ and ‘undefeatable’ force of the Philistines and they had ‘melted’, turned to water and dispersed.***

- We also need to point out that the fact Saul had to count and see who of his soldiers were not accounted for, tells me that Saul is really beginning to lose his grip and command of his army.

● ***The Reaction. (V. 18-19)***

- ‘So Saul said to Ahijah, “Bring the ark of God here.” For the ark of God went at that time with the people [f] of Israel. **19** Now while Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the camp of

the Philistines increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, “Withdraw your hand.”

○ ***In the world of Hebrew/Samuel Scholarship, these verses bring up a lot of debate.***

- On one side, according to the Torah (Deuteronomy 20:4-5), before Israel could go into battle they had to have a priestly address.
- Some will say that is why Saul gets the priests Ahijah and when Saul realizes that he is about to lose his opportunity to pounce and attack the Philistines he tells the priest ‘never mind’ and goes and fights the battle.

- ***Those same scholars tell us that it is a foreshadowing of Saul’s spiritually apathy and insensitivity to the Lord’s Ways and dealings.***

○ ***On the other hand, some say that since he realized his son was missing (remembering the earlier altercation that occurred in 1st Samuel 13:3), he got the priest so that he could seek God’s Guidance on how to get his son back.***

(See Judges 20:27) for an example of this.

- ***Either way, he told the priest ‘nevermind’ and went to go and fight the battle as he saw his opportunity gradually slipping away.***

- ***The Reckoning. (V. 20-22)***
 - ‘Then Saul and all the people who were with him rallied and went into the battle. And behold, every Philistine's sword was against his fellow, and there was very great confusion. **21** Now the Hebrews who had been with the Philistines before that time and who had gone up with them into the camp, even they also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. **22** Likewise, when all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were fleeing, they too followed hard after them in the battle.’
 - ***Now that the Philistines were in terror and confusion, Israel attacks and fights.***
 - It obviously went very well because the Philistines started fighting themselves.
 - ***In the previous battle of 1st Samuel 13, some of the Israelites had retreated to the enemy side. Verse 21 of 1st Samuel 14 shows us that the Philistines had allowed some Hebrew men to infiltrate their ranks, so that's why they ended up fighting man against man. Great confusion.***
 - ***The Philistines ran westward to Beth Aven which would have been to their homeland.***

- As they did, the rest of the Israelites who had previously fled, joined them once again.

- ***The Reality. (V. 23)***
 - ‘So the LORD saved Israel that day. And the battle passed beyond Beth-aven.’
 - ***The reality of all of this, is that without God, we can do nothing.***
 - Jonathan did what we did with God at the forefront of His mind.
 - Obviously, saul rarely thought of the Lord and didn't listen to Him.
 - Children, learn from your parents mistakes!

Conclusion:

- Whether you are a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, remember that little eyes are always watching.
 - ***Whether it's something good that we do or something bad, little one's are watching.***
- ***In our case tonight, Jonathan saw what his father did and was doing, and decided to do the exact opposite.***
 - ***He decided to have faith in God when his father decided to do things his own way.***
- ***What about us tonight?***
 - Do we look more like Jonathan or Saul in our daily lives?
 - The real question, is do our children and those we are older than or lead, think we are more like Saul or Jonathan?

- *What does God need to change in your heart and life tonight to make you more like Himself, and less like you?*
- **Point 1:** *The Drive to Fight. (V. 1-5)*
- **Point 2:** *The Decision to have Faith. (V. 6)*
- **Point 3:** *The Dedication to Follow Through. (V. 7-15)*
- **Point 4:** *The Deliverance From the Lord. (V. 16-23)*