

Remnant Life Church

June 26, 2022

A Tale of Two Kings

Pt 2

First Contact

I Samuel 16:14-23

We began this series 2 weeks ago with a little bit of history of how Israel first came to have a king

- This landmark time in Israel did not begin well
 - It was actually the beginning of a long descent away from God that would ultimately lead to their being captured
 - First the northern kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians in 722 BC
 - Then the southern kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians in 586 BC
- The people's desire to replace God's guidance with a man to lead them started this slide into a pattern of disobedience
- When Samuel went to God, He told Samuel to give the people what they wanted because they were not rejecting the prophet, they were rejecting their God ([I Sam 8:7](#))
- But the people insisted even after Samuel warned them that what they were asking for would not be good, beneficial, or pleasant for them. ([I Sam 8:10-18](#))

This morning, as we continue the story of these two kings, I would like to look at how they first met and the event that brought David to Saul and the entire nation's attention

READ – [I Samuel 16:14-23](#) (Miles Saksek)

If you read back over chapters 11 through 15 you see the events that lead to David being anointed king

- The anointing did not mean that David immediately took the throne
 - It would be at least another 12 to 15 years or so before that would happen

Now, Saul did many things well as king, but the times he did not carried intense consequences

- Saul's downfall, as we spoke of the other week, began with his impatience
- He was simply not willing to wait on God
 - The root of impatience is pride
 - It declares - I want what I want right now!

There were several things that God either permitted or orchestrated to bring David and Saul together

- The first verse we need to examine is the first one Miles read this morning because it can cause confusion on first glance
- **V14** – *Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.*
 - The first part of this verse are perhaps the saddest words spoken about a king of Israel
 - *And the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul*

- While Saul did remain king for the rest of his life, the Divine presence that had been present to guide and empower Saul as the leader of the people was now gone
- Consider what that meant:
 - God had rejected Saul as king, and He would no longer go with Him (I Sam 15:26)
 - Nor would there be another word from God to Saul through the prophet (I Sam 15:35)
 - His spiritual power was gone much in the same way that Samson's physical strength was gone when his hair was cut off (Jdgs 16:19)
 - Everything that Saul would do from this point on would be without God
- We then read something that begs the question why would God send an evil spirit to torment Saul?
 - Well you cannot answer that question unless you first understand the language used by the original writer
 - On the surface the most troubling about this is that the spirit is from the Lord
 - That word "from" in the original language is translated as near or in proximity of
 - IOW this is an instance when God permitted the evil spirit to torment Saul
 - Again, why?
 - Because the spirit of God had been withdrawn as a result of Saul's sin
 - When the spirit of God is gone, the door is wide open for satan to fill the void
 - This is as important for us to recognize and remember today
 - When you distance your heart from God, most often by allowing the business of your daily life to squeeze Him out of your thoughts and heart, satan will step in and cause you to move in the wrong directions
 - That is exactly what is being demonstrated here in Saul's life
 - The evil spirit is not specified in the Scripture but only to say that it tormented Saul
 - This means it was either emotional or physical in nature
 - It very likely could have been a deep depression that overtook him
 - Certainly, Saul had to deal with the knowledge of what he had done and the consequences for his actions
 - But he also knew that he needed relief if he was going to govern the nation as their king
 - It is here that one of his servants recommends a young man from the family of Jesse of Bethlehem (I Sam 16:18)
 - He was brave, good-looking, and a warrior

- In addition, he was skilled at playing the harp
- And so, the king sent for this youngest son of Jesse and David entered into the service of the king not only to play as a therapy to the king's torment but to also serve as his armor-bearer and as a resident of the king's court

But the first event that brings David to the forefront of Saul's thinking is perhaps one of the most well-known and beloved OT stories of all time

- It is so popular that it has been engrained into the very lexicon of our culture
- To say that a situation between two sides is 'a David and Goliath battle means that one side is grossly undermatched by its opponent's size or strength
 - But it also brings with it the knowledge of an unexpected outcome
 - Usually through some outside influence or a twist in the circumstances

The account of this encounter comes in the next chapter from our reading this morning in **I Sam 17**

- This is also, I believe, an example of how the Bible should be viewed when reading it
- In chapter 16, David is described as articulate, good looking, brave, AND a warrior
 - Some suggest that this means that his exploits of having killed a bear and a lion while tending sheep had become well known
 - I don't think so since he is described as a warrior or man of war meaning he was at least 20 years old and therefore old enough to have fought in battles with the army of Israel
- But then in the 17th chapter, David is still tending the sheep and is sent by his father to check up on three of his older brothers who are in the army and fighting with Saul
 - I only point this out to help you avoid confusion when reading
 - I also want to encourage you again that when you have a question in your mind about what you are reading, not to ignore it but stop and seek an answer
 - Knowing that these two chapter are apparently chronologically reversed answers the question of why Saul asked who David was after he killed Goliath when the previous chapter tells us that David was in the court of King Saul and appointed one of his armor-bearers

By most accounts David is a teenager when he encounters Goliath, but he certainly does not act like one.

The focus of this story for us this morning is the difference of how Saul acted and how David did when faced with the same threat

- We read in **I Sam 17:16** Goliath came out twice every day to make his threats and challenge the people of God
 - Once in the morning and once in the early evening
 - These two times most likely would have coincided with the times of prayer the people set aside each day to worship God
 - This went on for 40 days
 - Remember that we know that numbers are important
 - One of the meaning of the number 40 is a time of testing

- The Israelites and King Saul were being tested – and they were not doing well

How did Saul respond?

- We read in **I Sam 17:11**, *On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified*
 - This does not mean that they were just concerned
 - Dismayed – to be shattered or broken
 - Terrified – to stand in fear-filled awe
 - Perhaps another way to understand this is to say that they were frozen in fear with no hope
- How is it that the king of Israel would present this lack of leadership to his people?
 - Very simply, because the spirit of God had left him
 - He was now, once again, that same man who hid among the town baggage when they came looking to anoint him king (**I Sam 10:22**)
 - Without God in our lives to go before us, guide us, care for us, and guard us, we are nothing more than frail, weak, and sin-filled trying to do all that we can in our own might and power which is in reality very little
- Contrast Saul's response with that of David's
 - David is going back and forth from his father's house to take provisions and let Jesse know how his sons are doing
 - David's brothers don't have any time for their little brother and they spare no words in telling him so
 - But listen to the words that David speaks as he becomes aware of what is happening
 - **I Sam 17:26** – *David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the Living God?"*
 - David is already speaking words of victory
 - What is the prize?
 - Who am I about to go out and remove as an affront to God?
 - The words you speak have great power of your life and the lives of others
 - **17:32** – *David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."*
 - This was not the time to be dismayed and terrified
 - There was work to be done and rather than pass it on or look for someone else to do the heavy lifting – David embraces the challenge

READ – **I Sam 17:45-50**

- My favorite verse in this entire account of David and Goliath, and the one we must remember in the battles with our giants, is found as they prepare to fight

- *I Sam 17:48 - As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.*
- Saul's attitude in that time was one of hopelessness
 - And it was not a great warrior who came forward, it was a young shepherd
 - It was not a soldier dressed head to toe in armor but one dressed in the simple clothes of a common man
 - David offered himself just as he was knowing that God would give him all that he needed to be victorious
- And It didn't take much to change the entire outcome
 - Saul and the Israelites were so close, but they could not see the answer or know how to proceed because of their fear and dismay
 - Hopelessness is blinding to the victory that God has ready for you
- In 1952, a young woman named Florence Chadwick attempted to swim from Catalina Island to the California coast, a distance of 47 miles, in an attempt to set, what at that time, would be a record for an open-ocean longest swim. As she entered the water that early morning, a heavy fog settled over the water. Blinded by the dense fog, she became disoriented and discouraged to the point that she finally had to give up. When her escorts in a boat beside her helped her out of the water Florence discovered she was less than 300 yards from the coast of California and her goal. Her only words after learning how close she actually came were – "All I could see was hopeless."

How are you responding to your giants this morning?