

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 18:1-19:24

"If God is for you, who can be against you?" – August 27, 2017



Introduction

Who you trust in is more important than how strong your faith is. As Jesus taught in Luke 17:5-6, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." In 1 Samuel 17, we saw how the *object* of your faith made all the difference on the battlefield (contrast David and Saul); in chapters 18 & 19 we begin to see how who you trust in shapes the person we become. After David kills Goliath, we see a stark contrast in reactions between Jonathan (Saul's son) and Saul. This contrast highlights the effects of who we trust.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- I. Trusting God leads to a confident heart (18:1-16)
- II. Trusting God leads to a secure future (18:17-19:24)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 18:1-16](#)

Psalm 135 looks at the idols, the false gods, the nations worship. They have eyes, but can't see; ears, but can't hear, mouths, but can't speak. Then the psalmist teaches an important principle: "Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them" (Psalm 135:18). We become what we worship and trust; either to our ruin or our restoration. As we see the different responses between Jonathan (who trusts in God) and Saul (who trusts in his sword and self) this becomes more and more clear. Jonathan is not threatened by David's rise to national fame and in giving his robe to him, he's beginning to see that *David* is God's man for Israel's next king, not him. Saul, on the other hand, feels threatened. His jealousy and envy boil over and before long, he's miserable, paranoid, and fearful.

What does the struggle with envy and jealousy look like in your life? How does envy and jealousy affect our capacity for joy? How does it affect our capacity to love others? We will either find our value and identity in our *performance* or in God's grace (knowing who He made us to be, knowing His love for us, caring about His opinion of us more than man's). How can we fight against envy and jealousy in our hearts? Why should our relationships in our church family look different than the world in this?

Additional reading: Psalm 135:15-18; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Proverbs 14:30

2) Read [1 Samuel 18:17-19:24](#)

Jealousy is when we *fear losing something* like position or status; envy is when we *covet something someone else has*. Saul fears losing his kingship and covets David's rising fame. Unchecked jealousy and envy not only imprisoned him in bitterness and fear, it boiled over into a desperate attempt to get rid of the threat to what he cherished most. Over and over, Saul tries to kill David – but here, we see God's unfailing protection of his anointed king. In seeing God's protection, we learn:

1st: God's protection is often unseen, but never absent. When you look back on your life, do you see God's goodness and care? Ask and listen to the testimony of other Christians, consider the faithfulness of God to His people in the pages of Scripture or the saints who've gone before us. How does knowing God's past care and unchanging character help us trust Him today?

2nd: God often uses people as a means of deliverance. Who is in need in your life that God might use you to care for? Who might God be using to care for you in your needs?

3rd: God's protection doesn't mean a pain free life. Far from the lies of the prosperity gospel that says if you have enough faith, you can claim what you want (wealth, health, happiness). The Bible teaches we trust the Person of God, not our ability to believe. We trust a God we cannot control, but who we know is good.

4th: God's protection is beyond challenge. The account between David and Saul is like a mini-picture of what we see in Psalm 2. God laughs at the threats against Him and His anointed King – whether its David in 1 Samuel, or King Jesus in the New Testament. How does knowing God's confidence build our own confidence? How does knowing a secure future in Christ protect our hearts from insecurity?

Additional reading: Psalm 2, Psalm 23:6, Hebrews 4:15-16, Hebrews 10:19-22

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistum.com/media.php?pageID=6>