

Sermon Notes

“Jonathan’s Faith vs. Saul’s Foolishness”

1 Samuel 13:16 – 14:46

September 3, 2017

- c. When has a foolish scheme of your own backfired?
5. Read 1 Samuel 14:36-37.
- a. Compare and contrast Jonathan’s stated plan (14:6-10) with Saul’s schemes (14:24, 36)? When set side by side, what is noticeably absent from Saul’s plans that was central in Jonathan’s?
- b. When we face difficult times, what sort of God-less or faithless methods are we tempted to employ in order to save ourselves?
- c. In what situation is God calling you to remember him, to trust him, and to obey him?

Let’s Pray:

For our missionaries:

Walfre Estrada, Vida y Esperanza, Guatemala

Pray for wisdom, courage and protection for Wally as there are difficult situations that arise within the daily life of the school.

Introduction

Observations from the story

1. Jonathan’s Faith

2. Saul’s Foolishness

Conclusion:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 9-3-17

Questions adapted from 1&2 Samuel: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2012, pp. 47-48; Dale Ralph Davis, Focus on the Bible 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart, Bell & Bain, Glasgow, Great Britain, 2014, pp. 150.

Getting Started:

1. If you have read a number of Christian biographies, can you find in them or in Christians you know illustrations of a faith that makes people daring for God? How daring is your own faith?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Samuel 14:1-14
 - a. How would you describe Jonathan's faith from this passage? How does he affirm his confidence in the Lord?
 - b. What do you think of the tentativeness of Jonathan's "perhaps" (NIV), or "it may be ..." (ESV) in 1 Sam. 14:6? Does that tentativeness cut the nerve of his faith (as an example of being "double-minded" [James 1:6-8]), or is it part of his faith, recognizing his own ignorance of the end results, and God's utter freedom to do as He pleases?

3. Read 1 Samuel 14:15-23.
 - a. As Jonathan stated, "Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving" (14:6). Indeed, the narrator concludes by insisting "the LORD rescued Israel that day" (14:23). How did God enable Israel to gain the upper hand against Philistia on this occasion?

Consider the following: "When Saul and his men reached the Philistines, he found them fighting themselves (v. 20). This self-destruction can be attributed to a blunder the Philistines had made earlier: they had permitted some "Hebrews" (v. 21) with divided loyalties to join their ranks. When the tide of battle turned in Israel's favor, the non-Philistines "went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan" (v. 21). Now soldiers wearing Philistine markings and wielding Philistine weapons were fighting Philistines—with disastrous consequences for Israel's enemies! It was a mistake the Philistines would never make again (cf. 29:3–9)." (Bergen, R. D. (1996). 1, 2 Samuel (Vol. 7, p. 158). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.).

4. Read 1 Samuel 14:24-35.
 - a. How does Saul attempt to motivate the army to stay and fight (14:24)?
 - b. How does this plan backfire (14:28, 30, 32-33)?