



5-18-2014

Humbly Hope in the Lord

QUESTIONS

1. What part of the sermon stuck with you most?
2. What sparked Saul's jealousy?
3. What problem was Saul having?
4. What did he do? What can we learn from this?
5. What is the role between humility and trust in God?
6. What lessons stand out that speak to your heart?
7. How do you plan to use these truths?
8. What do you feel that you can share with others that will encourage and help those within your circle of influence to do the same?



1 Samuel 18

Question: “Humbly Hope in the Lord”

The Point: Humility and Trust (Jealousy, Manipulation, Trust, Dark side vs. light, Choices, Relational dynamics)

Important Verse:

INTRODUCTION

“These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.” 1 Corinthians 10:11

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” 1 Timothy 3:16-17

“Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled.” Romans 15:4

In a book called “The Life of David” written by A.W. Pink, he writes, referring to 1 Samuel 18, ***“An accurate portrayal is given of the different phases and features of human nature that is full of instruction for those who duly ponder the same.”***

Basically put, pay attention...these things were written to warn us and encourage us. They were written as examples to all us...and because we will see ourselves, maybe a bit more than we care to, in the way these characters react to all that happens.



After King Saul had finished his conversation with David, David met Jonathan, the king's son, and there was an immediate bond of love between them. Jonathan swore to be his blood brother,

4 and sealed the pact by giving him his robe, sword, bow, and belt. King Saul now kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home anymore.

5 He was Saul's special assistant, and he always carried out his assignments successfully. So Saul made him commander of his troops, an appointment that was applauded by the army and general public alike.

6 But something had happened when the victorious Israeli army was returning home after David had killed Goliath. Women came out from all the towns along the way to celebrate and to cheer for King Saul, and were singing and dancing for joy with tambourines and cymbals.

7 However, this was their song: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands!"

8 Of course Saul was very angry. "What's this?" he said to himself. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!"

9 So from that time on King Saul kept a jealous watch on David. 10 The very next day, in fact, a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave like a madman. David began to soothe him by playing the harp, as he did whenever this happened. But Saul, who was fiddling with his spear, 11-12 suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David jumped aside and escaped. This happened another time, too, for Saul was afraid of him and jealous because the Lord had left him and was now with David. 13 Finally Saul banned him from his presence and demoted him to the rank of captain. But the controversy put David more than ever in the public eye.



14 David continued to succeed in everything he undertook, for the Lord was with him.

15-16 When King Saul saw this, he became even more afraid of him; but all Israel and Judah loved him, for he was as one of them...

One day Saul said to David, "I am ready to give you my oldest daughter Merab as your wife. But first you must prove yourself to be a real soldier by fighting the Lord's battles." For Saul thought to himself, "I'll send him out against the Philistines and let them kill him rather than doing it myself."

18 "Who am I that I should be the king's son-in-law?" David exclaimed. "My father's family is nothing!"

19 But when the time arrived for the wedding, Saul married her to Adriel, a man from Meholath, instead.

20 In the meantime Saul's daughter Michal had fallen in love with David, and Saul was delighted when he heard about it.

21 "Here's another opportunity to see him killed by the Philistines!" Saul said to himself. But to David he said, "You can be my son-in-law after all, for I will give you my youngest daughter."

22 Then Saul instructed his men to say confidentially to David that the king really liked him a lot, and that they all loved him and thought he should accept the king's proposition and become his son-in-law.

23 But David replied, "How can a poor man like me from an unknown family find enough dowry to marry the daughter of a king?"

24 When Saul's men reported this back to him, 25 he told them, "Tell David that the only dowry I need is one hundred dead Philistines!^[a] Vengeance on my enemies is all I want." But what Saul had in mind was that David would be killed in the fight.



26 David was delighted to accept the offer. So, before the time limit expired,

27 he and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines and presented their foreskins to King Saul. So Saul gave Michal to him....

When the king realized how much the Lord was with David and how immensely popular he was with all the people,

29 he became even more afraid of him and grew to hate him more with every passing day.

30 Whenever the Philistine army attacked, David was more successful against them than all the rest of Saul's officers. So David's name became very famous throughout the land.

Pray -

I read a quote while studying for today that says...

"Faith is living without scheming"

Yet we tend, in life, to be schemers. You name it, we try to control it. We are by nature self-focused and so trust and faith are not things we do naturally...we tend the other way, toward mistrust and pride. And because this is true of us all, at least I know it is true of me, I believe there is, as Romans 15:4 tells us, a great lesson to be learned here in the the life of David. As I have been reading and re-reading this scene from David's life, the whole life of David in fact, I am constantly reminded of the words found in Proverbs 3 which says...

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust, faith and a spirit of humility are at the very heart of this chapter and faith, at the end of the day, is trust. It lacks pride, it is humble and content in its hope in the Lord.



NEED TO ADD FOR SUNDAY

“Lord, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I don’t concern myself with matters too great or too awesome for me to grasp. Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother’s milk. Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, put your hope in the Lord— now and always.” Psalm 131

That’s what trust in God looks like...

It is impossible for the proud, self-centered heart, to have the type of faith described so wonderfully in Psalm 131. To have faith in Jesus that says simply we trust Him, for everything and that apart from Him we have nothing, that we are lost. It is a call to know that God is God and that the life he calls us toward is not a life filled with worldly prizes but a life of peace, contentment, and an unshakable joy that is a direct result of our trust. It is a realization that it’s not about us, it’s about Jesus.

(Refer to Gregg’s comments on trust) We come out of a section of scripture which displays an extreme example of trust and reliance in God as David slays the giant Goliath. David proclaims in faith ***“You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you...”***

What I love about this is that David speaks as one who has seen the future. The outcome is certain, there is no doubt in God’s victory. I am fighting you today Goliath from a place of victory already secured. I will win. The outcome is certain.

And it’s not my victory, it’s God’s. What will happen is what God wills to happen. That is faith.

“Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.” Hebrews 11:1



Faith is a trust in the certainty of something or someone.

Humility and Trust in God go Hand in Hand

BIBLE

This chapter is a story of faith, trust, humility, arrogance, anger, fear, aggression, selfishness and selflessness and the effects these have upon our life.

It begins shortly after David defeats Goliath and right away we are introduced to one of the many important individuals to play a role in the life of David, and that is Jonathan, the eldest son of Saul the king.

It's important that we see what Jonathan's reaction was to the victory of David over Goliath. We are told first of all that..

“There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David.”

1 Samuel 18:1

What makes this so interesting is that as Saul's oldest son, Jonathan should have been destined to have the throne of Israel. But the Lord, the Bible tells us, has already given it to David so this is certainly a very unique and interesting friendship. No one had more reason to dislike David than Jonathan because David was taking the crown from Jonathan. One would think Jonathan would be instantly jealous and more than a little suspicious of David, but that is not what we see here and it's not what we will see as this story of David unfolds.

Look at what Jonathan does...

“Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.” Samuel 18:3-4



We see the son of the king humbly honoring the son of a shepherd. Not only was this an extremely kind gesture but also, by Jonathan handing over his official garments and his armor to David, It's as if Jonathan is relinquishing his claim to the throne...he is in some way acknowledging that David would be the one to take his place.

One of my bible commentaries said that *“such selflessness is possible only for those in sync with the purposes of God.”*

In Jonathan we see the humility and selflessness that we are all called toward.

“Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.” Philippians 2:3-4

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

ESV VERSION

POINT...We are called to just this kind of selflessness.

But here is where David's troubles truly begin. Like Jonathan, Saul, who is king, I believe senses that David is to replace him as king, but Saul's reaction is the exact opposite of Jonathan's. Instead of humility and selflessness we see anger, fear, aggression, scheming, hostility, enmity, animosity and pride.

Saul finds himself once again at odds with God...

...and being at odds with God and God's will puts one at odds with God's purpose in other's lives...and recognizing that “the Lord was with David” Saul becomes “David's enemy continually.”

“the individual that nurtures themselves on pride will experience nothing but jealousy, fear and anxiety, a life absent of peace.”



Jonathan, in humility, it appears is placing his trust with God in this circumstance, Saul is not. It's all about Saul.

The Bible not only shows us who God is but it also reveals to us the character of man...It's important that we remember stories like this were written to...

"Faith is living without scheming" but Saul was better at scheming than at trusting God. Saul has been told, by God, that his reign is over. The Lord has rejected him...he isn't going to remain king nor is his family going to remain the family in power. Saul is experiencing the effects of his arrogance his total lack of humility and trust before God...

But Samuel replied, "I will not go back with you! Since you have rejected the LORD's command, he has rejected you as king of Israel." 1 Samuel 15:26

"The Lord will stay with you as long as you stay with him! Whenever you seek him, you will find him. But if you abandon him, he will abandon you." 2 Chr 15:2

Even more, in the past, when Saul goes against God and finds himself in turmoil he is always ready with an excuse to get himself out of trouble and if anyone ever challenged his leadership he would figure out ways to eliminate them. Saul is interested in one thing and one thing alone and that is controlling his life and holding onto his power. Saul is concerned with Saul and friends this is not the way God designed for us to live life...

God has designed this life to be lived in humility. Humility toward God and toward one another, with complete trust in Him, even when it makes very little sense to do so. If we would be humble before God and toward one another life would be just grand...

"Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor." Proverbs 29:23

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6



But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. Matthew 23:12

The verses speak for themselves on the effects of arrogance, selfishness, and pride...when we are lacking in humility...we will experience self inflicted turmoil.

“What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don’t they come from the cravings that are at war within you?” James 4:1

Instead of humbly trusting God in this circumstance, sensing that David will become king, Saul selfishly grasps to what he believes is his...and this causes him to experience fear David.

1 Samuel 18:15 tells us this... “When Saul saw that he (David) had great success, he (Saul) stood in fearful awe of him.” Saul’s primary concern was not for the Lord’s honor or the people’s welfare but himself.

“Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.”
Proverbs 29:25

Saul was “Apprehensive” and “Fearful of the future”

Well if we are placing our life and our future in the hands of the all-knowing, all-powerful, all-everywhere all the time, and perfectly loving God what need have we to fear for the future.

But placing our identity, our hopes, our fears, our trust in anything or anyone other than God is a dangerous trap...and Saul is running headlong into the trap, away from the safety that humbly trusting in the Lord provides...

Which way are we running in life? Because none of us is standing still. We are either moving toward God or away...

It is important to note that Saul would not have been pleased that his chief and best commander, his son Jonathan, was a friend of this David. Jonathan’s job was



to make the king look good, not this young shepherd boy. And yet here is the son of the king honoring the son of a shepherd. Saul sees David as an enemy, a threat to he and his son's future. And what follows is a downward spiral of pride, envy, anger, jealousy and fear.

Of course while Saul is attempting to cling to his power...

“Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul’s officers alike.” 1 Samuel 18:5

David’s star is quickly on the rise and he is loved by everyone. And thus far in the life of David we see no deception. We see a man who, by all appearances, has a heart that loves and trusts in God. David’s success is well earned because of the humility and wisdom in which he conducts himself. Everyone seems to love David...and Saul hates it.

Upon returning from the victory over Goliath and the Philistine army...

“When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. This was their song: “Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!” 1 Samuel 18:6-7

Picture it, you are the king and you are returning from a successful battle. You are the leader and you see the people coming out and you figure it is to congratulate you but this is what you hear...“Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!”

I can imagine Saul thinking “WHAT?!?!” Now there are two ways of seeing this statement. The first is that they are elevating David’s accomplishment over Saul’s accomplishment and in doing so claiming a greater love for David than for Saul.

This is how Saul views it obviously...



Saul was furious and resented this song. “They credited tens of thousands to David,” he complained, “but they only credited me with thousands. 1 Samuel 18:8

Interesting side note, I was amazed learn that in many of the commentaries I read it said that these two terms “Thousand and Ten Thousand” were understood to be synonyms of one another. That in fact they weren’t elevating David over Saul at all...which, if this is true, makes it even more interesting that Saul would think they are elevating David over himself. It truly shows where his heart is at this point. Saul no doubt is remembering what Samuel had told him, that the lord would give the kingdom to another who was better than he and he is thinking “it’s this kid.”

(JED LEADING WORSHIP)

(Your job, your relationships, your marriage...)

The saddest part of this whole scene is the fact that the victory didn’t belong to David or Saul...it belonged to God. Of course when we live with pride in our abilities and our accomplishments, God quickly vanishes from our thoughts...

...and unable to rejoice in what God is doing through another, Saul becomes envious when he hears the superior praises of David being sung; he could not tolerate being second.

Instead of humbling himself before God and asking for forgiveness, instead of seeing his problem and admitting to it, he seeks to rid himself of the man who would take his place. Of course every effort of Saul to get rid of David simply makes David look better and better.

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6

(QUICK OVERVIEW OF VERSES 12-30)

Saul would have been better advised to simply humble himself before God in light of his constant rebellion and say “God, I messed up.”



How often in life, when we look back on things, do we see times where it just would have been better for us to just stop and say "I'm sorry."

POINT...

"Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall."

Proverbs 16:18

(CHECK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU WRECK YOURSELF)

Let's fast forward and see how David responds later on in life when he had behaved without humility and trust in God.

"For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight...Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me." Psalm 51:3, 4, 11

Humbly David come before God and admits his faults, If Saul had just done this, so much of his life would have been so very different.

In David's response and Saul's' response we see the difference between one who sees themselves for who they are and their sin, as opposed to one who hides from it. One, in pride, hardens their heart in their sin, whereas the other is heartbroken over it.

Which one are you? Which one am I? Which one are we?

It's a tragic tale really. I guess that is why...

"These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age." 1 Corinthians 10:11

What we see throughout this story is Saul's pride and total lack of trust and fear of God. It has been a painful pattern in his life up to this point and it is this lack of trust and understanding of who God is that drives his emotions as well as his choices. He is motivated by jealousy, envy, fear, anger and ultimately selfishness that stem



from his lack of trust in God. He wants to control everything and friends trusting God and longing for control of your own life don't go together.

What's the verse...

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Matthew 16:25

It's one of the great paradoxes of life...

It's interesting and somewhat sad that so many pastors today fall into teaching a kind of moralism that actually encourages one attempting to control life.

You can do it on your own...it's in you...NO!! It's Not!!

“We must cease striving and trust God to provide what He thinks is best and in whatever time He chooses to make it available.” - Chuck Swindoll

This is David's pattern in so much of this story. It appears to be Jonathan's. Instead of scheming and taking matters into his own hands, David is content to quietly wait for the timing of God in making him king.

“David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the Lord was with him.”

1 Samuel 18:14

Everything he did, he did it with the wisdom that comes from God and it is only the humble heart that seeks the wisdom of God. David sought God's heart in all things, this is why he prospered, by humbly acknowledging, trusting, and following God.

“...in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

This is not Saul's pattern in life. The kind of faith and trust in God that Chuck Swindoll describes, that God will provide what He thinks is best and according to God's timing doesn't enter into Saul's thinking...



...and honestly, we are not that much different from Saul. The same is true for us...when we fail to acknowledge that God is God and we, in arrogance, turn from Him...well the Bible is filled with verse after verse that tell us what happens and none of it is good.

Of course for those that humbly place their hope in God...

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. Psalm 1:1-3

APPLY

I guess my question to all of us this day "Are we scheming in life or are we trusting?" Who is at the center of our world? What ultimate truth is the foundation of our life? (House of Cards Reference)

O Lord, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God! Do not let me be disgraced, or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat. No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced, but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others. Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and unfailing love, which you have shown from long ages past. Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth. Remember me in the light of your unfailing love, for you are merciful, O Lord. Psalm 25:1-7

I don't know when David wrote this Psalm, but if you go back and read it later, and I encourage you to do so, you will see that it was not written during a time of peace and security but during a time of trouble and probably confusion...



...but in it we see no hint of scheming and control but an utter dependence in the goodness, kindness, mercy, compassion and unfailing grace-filled love of God. This is what trust looks like. This is what it sounds like.

NATE...

David showed this kind of trust at this point. Jonathan showed us humility of one who knows God...Saul's life was not marked by this kind of trust, as it ruined him and his family.

So I guess the question is why can we trust in God? What reason has He given us to prove He is indeed trustworthy and faithful to do what is ultimately good? What is the proof that we can rely on Him in all circumstances? Why should we humbly come before Him for all things?

JESUS...

"You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!" John 5:39

The challenge here this morning is not be more like Jonathan and David and less like Saul. It is not about being better and doing more. It is not about fixing ourselves...the question is in whom have we placed our trust, our faith, our hope.

I want to go back and return to what Jonathan does for David after the victory of Goliath...

"Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as much as himself. Then Jonathan removed the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his military tunic, his sword, his bow, and his belt." 1 Samuel 18:3-4

"...here is the son of the king honoring the son of a shepherd."

And I ask the question...does Jesus do any less for you and me?



“Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.”

Philippians 2:6-9

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” ESV VERSION

Jonathan could have clung to his right and hope to become king, but instead, as John MacArthur describes it, “he gave to David the outer garments and instruments that signified his position as prince of Israel and heir to the throne.”

Does Jesus do any less for us?

“I am overwhelmed with joy in the LORD my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom in his wedding suit or a bride with her jewels.” Isaiah 61:10

“No other religion in the world teaches this great truth. Everyone else is working (and scheming) to get a right relationship with God. In grace, the Bible tells us, God takes the perfect righteousness of His Son, Jesus, and places it on the believing sinner as a perfect robe.”

ENDING

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death....

...What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up



for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?...

...I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:1-39 (Selected)

“O Lord, God of our ancestors, you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty; no one can stand against you! O our God, did you not drive out those who lived in this land when your people Israel arrived? And did you not give this land forever to the descendants of your friend Abraham? Your people settled here and built this

Temple to honor your name. They said, ‘Whenever we are faced with any calamity such as war, plague, or famine, we can come to stand in your presence before this Temple where your name is honored. We can cry out to you to save us, and you will hear us and rescue us.’ 2 Chronicles 20:6-9

And the Good News proclaimed today is that we have no need friends to go to a temple...all we need do is go to the cross, the place where God himself proclaimed His love for each of us when He declared “It is finished!” I have come to set you free...to experience a truly rich and satisfying life.