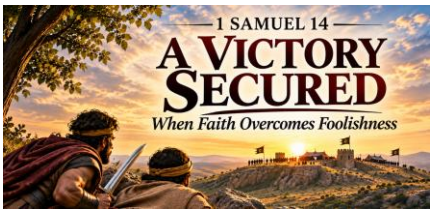
Pastor Doug Kilchenman November 8, 2026

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: 1 Samuel 14:1-52 – Courageous faith trusts God's ability

Today's Message:

"A Victory Secured"



The Weekly Bulletin

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw Saul portray himself as a man who was compelled by circumstances to sin against God. He allowed the pressure of his circumstances to overrule God's authority and justify his sin. Today, we will watch Jonathan trust God by faith to overcome impossible odds to bring a victory over the enemy. His faith in God will lead others to step out in faith and participate in the battle. His dad – king Saul – will do more foolish things. The pattern is clear now. Saul will trouble God's people and his family with his selfish approach to life. There is much to learn in this chapter. Pay close attention.

This is God's message to you…

LEARNING TOGETHER

THE CONTEXT
Remember the context from the end of Ch 13 – the people of God were at a tremendous disadvantage with no swords or weapons!

❖ **The Text 1 Samuel 14:1-52**

A. Faith that Advances 14:1-23

1. Faith does <u>not</u> require favorable conditions before it is willing to **<u>TRUST</u>** God!

THE GEOGRAPHY
Michmash and Geba were separated by a steep ravine with difficult terrain. Jonathan and his armourbearer would have faced a dangerous climb to reach the Philistine position.

1Samuel 14:1-3 *– … Come, and let us go… But <u>he told not his father</u>.*
1Samuel 14:4-6 *– … Come, and let us go…IT MAY BE that **the LORD will work for us**: for there is **no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few**.*
1Samuel 14:7-12 *– … Come up after me: for **the LORD hath delivered them** into the hand of Israel.*
1Samuel 14:13-15 *– … there was <u>trembling</u> in the host… and **the earth quaked**…*
1Samuel 14:16-23 *– … So **the LORD saved Israel that day** …*

God intervened!

"Come, and **let us go**" – initiative of faith – Jonathan is <u>not</u> content to sit under a tree!
"There is **no restraint** to the LORD" – confidence of faith – faith trusts God's ability!
"Come up **after me**" – action of faith – follow me as I follow God by faith! Discipleship!
"The **LORD saved** Israel" – victory of faith – <u>not</u> Jonathan, but God who is mighty to save!

Important Note
***Do not** measure God's ability by your resources. **Do not** confuse difficult circumstances with impossible circumstances. **Do not** wait for everybody else to take the first step. **Do not** forget to give God the credit for the victory.*

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES **Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 20:7; Romans 8:31; Matthew 19:26**

- **Abraham** ***Hebrews 11:8*** Obeyed God by faith when called with <u>no</u> details.
- **The wind** ***Ecclesiastes 11:4*** **"**He that observeth the wind shall not sow…"
- **Gideon** ***Judges 7:2*** God reduced his strength to save in God's strength!
- **King Asa** ***2 Chr 14:11*** He cried for God who helps those with **or** without strength!
- **King Jehoshaphat** ***2 Chr 20:12*** He cried, "We have no might…" We need you God!
- **Zerubbabel** ***Zechariah 4:6*** "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit…"

Personal Application – God intervened supernaturally to bring victory!
The progression of the victory: the enemy trembled, the earth quaked, the enemy killed each other! The lesson is <u>not</u> that human courage is sufficient – it is that God is sufficient! Amen. Amen. Faith is willing to act upon that truth! What is God leading you to do in your life right now?

B. Foolishness that Hinders 14:24-32

2. Foolish leadership can place unnecessary burdens on people *and* **HINDER** God's work.

Psalm 19:8
…the commandment of the LORD is pure, ***enlightening*** *the eyes.*

1Samuel 14:24 *– … the* ***men of Israel were distressed****… Cursed be the man…*
1Samuel 14:25-30 *– … How much more,* ***if haply the people had eaten freely****...*
1Samuel 14:31-32 *– …and the people were very faint… did eat them* ***with the blood****.*

"Saul…**adjured**…Cursed be the man" – foolish, unnecessary, poorly timed, self-centered!
"There was **honey upon the ground** – God's provision was available and much needed!
"My father hath **troubled** the land" – man's laws can bind God's liberty! Honey helped!

Psalm 19:10
More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: ***sweeter also than honey*** *and the honeycomb.*

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- **Jesus' warning** ***Matt 23:4*** "For they bind heavy burdens and grievous…"
- **Peter's warning** ***Acts 15:10*** "… to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples…"
- **Christ's rest** ***Matt 11:28-30*** "Come unto me… Take my yoke… my yoke is easy…"
- **Achan's trouble** ***Joshua 7:25*** Both Achan and Saul brought unnecessary hardship.

Leviticus 17:12
Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, ***No soul of you shall eat blood****, neither shall any stranger…*

KEY TRUTHS

- Saul was wrong to impose a foolish command; the people were wrong to sin.
- Be careful – poor leadership does *not* excuse personal disobedience to God.

Important Note
A good leader removes unnecessary obstacles so that people can accomplish what God has called them to do!

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- ***Do not*** confuse personal preferences with biblical precepts and principles.
- ***Do not*** weaken people you are supposed to be strengthening and encouraging!
- ***Do not*** allow physical exhaustion to become an excuse for spiritual compromise.
- ***Do not*** let one person's foolishness determine your personal obedience to God.

C. Family, Battles, and Conflict 14:33-52

3. Despite flawed leadership *and* failing people, God still **WORKS** to accomplish His will.

Winning the battle *but* losing perspective
Sometimes we can become so focused on accomplishing something that we lose sight of the people God has given us to care for + serve.

1Samuel 14:33-37 *– …**Saul built an altar** unto the LORD… asked counsel of God…*
1Samuel 14:38-42 *– … Give a perfect lot… And* ***Jonathan was taken****.*
1Samuel 14:43 *– … Jonathan told him…I did but taste a little honey…* ***lo, I must die****…*
1Samuel 14:44 *– … God do so and more also:* ***for thou shalt surely die****, Jonathan.*
1Samuel 14:45 *– And* ***the people said unto Saul****, Shall Jonathan die… God forbid…*
1Samuel 14:46-52 *–… And* ***there was sore war****… all the days of Saul…*

Joshua 14:15
… And ***the land had rest*** *from war.*

"The people **sin** against the LORD" – correction of people – a response to sin enacted
"Thou shalt **surely die**, Jonathan" – instead of admitting his mistake, Saul doubles down!
"Shall Jonathan die…**?**" – rescue of Jonathan by the people – a most remarkable moment!
"Sore war… **all the days** of Saul" – continuous conflict – victories yes; but a joyful life???

Judges 3:11,30;5:31
And ***the land had rest*** *forty years… fourscore years… forty years.*

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES ***2 Chronicles 14:6 – … because the LORD had given him rest.***

- **Jephthah's vow** ***Jdg 11:30-40*** A rash vow can bring a disaster; your words matter!
- **Christ's humility** ***Php 2:1-8*** "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"

Conclusion – The Victory and the Lessons

Do not let the size of the battle determine the size of your faith in God – He is more than able!
Do not let the foolishness of others determine the faithfulness of your walk with Jesus Christ.
Do not let the victories and conflicts of life cause you to forget the blessings God has given you.