

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 18:1-30

Sermon Title: David & Saul: Heavy is The Head

Grow as men & women after God's own heart.

The Schemes of Saul:

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. ²From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. ³And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.⁵ Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well. ⁶When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. ⁷As they danced, they sang: **"Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."** ⁸Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" ⁹And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

1 Samuel 18:1-9

Insecure people & leaders obtain their deepest value from the words of others more than the words of God.

"All the shine of a thousand spotlights. All the stars we steal from the night sky. Will never be enough. Never be enough. Towers of gold are still too little. These hands could hold the world but it'll. Never be enough. Never be enough"

-Jenny Lind. The Greatest Showman

"Just one more dollar"

- John D. Rockefeller

Our souls are too big to be filled by stuff or fully satisfied by another person.

"Great are you, O Lord, and surpassingly worthy of praise. Great is your goodness, and your wisdom is incalculable. And humanity, which is but a part of your creation, wants to praise you; even though humanity bears everywhere its own mortality, and bears everywhere the evidence of its own sin and the evidence that you resist the proud. And even so humanity, which is but a part of your creation, longs to praise you. You inspire us to take delight in praising you, **for you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you**"

-Augustine. Confessions Book I.

Our souls are too big to be filled by stuff or fully satisfied by another person—we need Jesus.

I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. ³ Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. ⁴ I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. ⁵ **I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods**; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

Psalm 63:2-5

The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand ¹¹ and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. ¹² Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed from Saul. ¹³ **So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns.** ¹⁴ **In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him.** ¹⁵ **When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him.** ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.
v10-16

Insecure people & leaders sabotage themselves.

Insecure people & leaders drag others into their schemes.

Now Saul's daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased. ²¹ **"I will give her to him," he thought, "so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him."** So Saul said to David, "Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law." ²² **Then Saul ordered his attendants:** "Speak to David privately and say, 'Look, the king likes you, and his attendants all love you; now become his son-in-law.'" v20-22

But the king said, "You will surely die, Ahimelek, you and your whole family." ¹² **Then the king ordered the guards at his side:** "Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because they too have sided with David. They knew he was fleeing, yet they did not tell me."
1 Samuel 22:16-17

Check your heart before you become like Saul.

The Favor of God:

In everything [David] did he had great success, because **the Lord was with him.**
v14

God's favor is more than general blessing; it's a unique saturation of grace.

The right relationships:

Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. ² From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. ³ **And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.** ⁴ Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

v1-4

Success in endeavors:

When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king's son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed, ²⁷ **David took his men with him and went out and killed two hundred** Philistines and brought back their foreskins.

v26

God's favor on you is never just for you.

Protection through difficulty:

David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, **but God did not give David into his hands.**

1 Samuel 23:14

Provision with needs:

So the priest **gave him the consecrated bread**, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the Lord and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

1 Samuel 21:6

We covet the favor of others because we fail to see where God has provided it in our lives.

God's favor is not meant to be earned; it's meant to be enjoyed & stewarded.

The Integrity of David:

But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? ¹⁰ As surely as the Lord lives," he said, **"the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.** ¹¹ But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."

1 Samuel 26:9-11

You can honor an office regardless of who is occupying it.

"Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it. ²³ **The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness.**

The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. ²⁴ As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord value my life and deliver me from all trouble."

1 Samuel 26:22-24

Commit to grow in righteousness & faithfulness—delight in God, do the right things, rinse & repeat.

Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; ²for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. ³Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. ⁴Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: ⁶He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. ⁷Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. ⁸Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.

Spend a day in [reading](#) & [reflecting](#) on Psalm 37.