

Good morning and thank you for joining us. Would you please turn in your bibles to 1 Sam 18?

If you recall from our studies over the last few weeks, we've seen David, anointed by the prophet Samuel, David is one day going to ascend to the throne to be Israel's next king. Last week we saw the thrilling and incredible account of young David, against all odds, by the hand of God defeat the hulking giant named Goliath.

But instead of ascending immediately to the throne, David is about to experience challenges and pain the likes of which very few of us could ever relate.

See before he wears the crown, God still has work to do in shaping David. So, without ever filling out a form, or writing a single essay, David is about to be enrolled into God's school of brokenness.

This morning we're going to study 18-19, and the title of this morning's message is God's School of Brokenness pt 1

Let's pray

1 Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Think about what Jonathan and David had in common. Both men were jealous for God's honor. They both had a daring faith, and neither of them were afraid to step out, and act on their faith. Jonathan attacked a Philistine garrison. David conquered a Philistine giant.

Have you ever noticed how a common faith and a love for God can create a bond and a loyalty between people, a bond that's even stronger than blood.

Aristotle once wrote, "Friendship is a single soul dwelling in two bodies." This was the case with David and Jonathan.

Over the years, skeptics of the Bible, including those who are looking to advance their agenda of homosexuality, have tried to use the verses describing Jonathan's love for David as proof that homosexuality is not only acceptable to God, but also has good biblical precedent.

However, the Hebrew word for love here is the word 'aheb'. Every other place homosexuality is discussed the word 'yada' is used, which means 'to know' in the sense of knowing through sexual relations.

Nowhere in the scriptures does God declare His approval of homosexuality. God declares homosexuality is a sin, just like lying, just like pride, just like gossip are sins.

2 Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. " After his defeat of Goliath, David now becomes a permanent member of Saul's court. Remember David would go back home to tend the sheep prior to this, but not anymore.

3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt. In our culture it's hard to understand the depth and gravity of the events here. Remember, as King Saul's son, Jonathan had a natural right to the throne. Jonathan was Saul's natural successor.

But David was God's choice. David had a spiritual claim.

And despite the potential conflict, Jonathan never resented God's appointment of David as the next king. And what's happening here is that Jonathan is submitting to David's authority by surrendering his own armor and sword.

It's a credit to both men that they remained friends, and never became rivals.

5 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. David has now risen the ranks. He went from a shepherd boy to the commander of all of Israel's army! All because of David's willingness to step out in faith.

6 Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. Why are the women dancing? Well remember in war, especially in those days, casualty rates were incredibly high. Women had no idea if they would ever see their husbands, their fathers, or their sons ever again. **SHOW PIC** But word has reached home, the philistines were defeated, Israel was victorious! Hey when you're victorious in war, it's time to celebrate!! **CLOSE PIC**

7 So the women sang as they danced, and said:

"Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."

8 Then Saul was very angry, (the original Hebrew describes a slow burning anger) and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" Remember the scene when Saul spared Agag, and reached out in utter desperation and grabbed the prophet Samuel's robe, and you remember what Samuel told king Saul.... **1 Samuel 15 27 And as Samuel turned around to go away,**

Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. 28 So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

No doubt these memories are running through Saul's mind as the people elevate David.

And Saul is fuming!! Saul's unchecked jealousy will now catapult him to paranoia.

9 So Saul eyed David from that day forward. We need to beware of jealousy. FB Meyer warns us, "Jealousy is one of the worst temptations that can beset us. It arises in the most unexpected ways and times. When everyone around us is possessed by a common joy, jealousy steals in like a ghost and settles down on some heart, which it scourges with whips of fury. Resist its first entrance!"

Jealousy is especially dangerous for Christians, because while we're glorifying God, we can notice His work wasn't done through us, and we can get jealous.

How we need to remember 1 Corinthians 12 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

10-11

10 And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. 11 And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice. Now we talked about this distressing spirit from the Lord a

couple of weeks ago... Why would a distressing spirit make Saul prophesy?

The Hebrew grammar here can be used of idle ravings as well as of prophecy from the LORD. Saul was babbling like a man not in his right mind.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, while David is playing the harp for Saul to soothe and minister to him, the king erupts in a rage and hurls a spear, trying to kill David...

12-15

12 Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul. 13 Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. 14 And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. 15 Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them. So here we see David growing in stature, and undoubtedly it is further stoking the slow burn of anger and resentment inside of Saul's heart.

Now if you recall, Saul had promised his daughter in marriage to anyone who defeated Goliath. So, David is supposed to be getting a bride! But Saul has a change of heart, and despite his earlier promise, Saul now adds a condition...

17 Then Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles." For Saul thought, "Let my hand not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him." Saul's motive is clear. He wants the Philistines to destroy David. How's that for a F-I-L?

18 So David said to Saul, “Who am I, and what is my life or my father’s family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?”

David’s humble nature shines through again. He was nationally famous. All Israel loved him. All Saul’s staff loved him. Jonathan the crown prince loved him. All over Israel women sang and danced in his honor. Yet when the hand of Merab is offered to David he didn’t think, “Well, it’s about time. I’m glad someone noticed.”

19 But it happened at the time when Merab, Saul’s daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife. David doesn’t die at the hands of the Philistines, so Saul decides to hurt David a different way. He promised David his daughter, then gave her to another man at the last minute.

But Saul has another daughter, and Saul is shrewd. So, he comes up with another plan to destroy David.

20-22

20 Now Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 So Saul said, “I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” Therefore Saul said to David a second time, “You shall be my son-in-law today.”

22 And Saul commanded his servants, “Communicate with David secretly, and say, ‘Look, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now therefore, become the king’s son-in-law.’” This time Saul tried to break down David’s humble resistance to becoming his son-in-law by sending servants to assure David that his lack of wealth would not be a problem.

23 So Saul’s servants spoke those words in the hearing of David. And David said, “Does it seem to you a light thing to be a king’s

son-in-law, seeing I am a poor and lightly esteemed man?”

Normally grooms paid their prospective father-in-law a price to compensate for the loss of their daughter, this is known as a dowry. David is concerned he can't afford the price of a princess.

24-25

24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, “In this manner David spoke.”

25 Then Saul said, “Thus you shall say to David: ‘The king does not desire any dowry but one hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king’s enemies.’ ” But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that no Philistine is going to give up his foreskin without a fight. Saul figures surely one out of a 100 angry Philistines will defeat David. By the way, for the golfers in the crowd this is the first Skins Game in history.

26-27

26 So when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to become the king's son-in-law. Now the days had not expired; 27 therefore David arose and went, he and his men, and killed two hundred men of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full count to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him Michal his daughter as a wife. Saul had asked for 100 foreskins. David pays double the dowry – 200 skins. Imagine being the guy who had to count this...and you think your job is tough!

28 Thus Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him; 29 and Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul became David's enemy continually. Even though David had become his son-in-law, as well as his

faithful commander-in-chief and successful field general, Saul views David as his perpetual enemy.

But Saul's irrational behavior is blinding himself to 1 simple, yet profound fact. David was the LORD's anointed, so by setting himself against David, Saul was setting himself against God.

30 Then the princes of the Philistines went out to war. And so it was, whenever they went out, that David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed. All that Saul does to harm David backfires. David continues to grow in stature while Saul shrinks.

As much as we love the victory of David over Goliath in chapter 17, chapter 18 gives us a more somber lesson. David's life illustrates the fact that the godly often suffer through no fault of their own.

Yet, it shows too that God causes even the worst intentions of the ungodly to strengthen and mold His children. **Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**

David is now fully enrolled in God's school of brokenness...

Chapter 19

1 Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David. Saul's murderous plots, previously hidden, now go public.

2-3

2 So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide. 3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father

about you. Then what I observe, I will tell you.” Jonathan again steps out in faith and does the courageous.

4-5 notice carefully what Jonathan says...

4 Thus Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, “Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been very good toward you. 5 For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?”

As great as Jonathan’s venture of faith was back in chapter 14, it’s at this moment that he shows even more courage. To stand up to his violent, irrational father, took a level of courage most of us can’t understand.

Jonathan was bold enough to tell his father that his anger and jealousy against David was sin. Jonathan delivered a needed word of correction and rebuke.

6 So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, “As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed.” 7 Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things. So Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as in times past. This must’ve been a wonderful scene-Saul shows actual humility, and he heeds the voice of Jonathan.

Imagine the moment-the command to kill David is revoked. Saul and David are together again as in previous days. Can u picture the elation and joy that must’ve burst forth from David’s heart!

For how long of a time there is peace, we don’t know-weeks, months, things are back to the way they were, until...

8-9

8 And there was war again; and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a mighty blow, and they fled from him. 9 Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand. I bet you know what's about to happen, don't you?!

10 Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night. David has left the king's court, and for the next 20 years David will be a fugitive on the run. For 20 years David will live with almost inexpressible emotional pain. Remember, David's already been anointed as the next king-why would God allow him to endure such agony and hardship?

God allowed all of these events to unfold for 1 simple reason-God wanted to use a broken vessel.

But Saul's not content until he sees that David is dead...his previous oath to the Lord to not kill David is long gone...

11 Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed."

Michal, remember she's Saul's daughter, is in the same situation as her brother, Jonathan.

Will she side with her husband or father? She makes the right move, and protects an innocent man. Can you imagine the pain, the heartbreak, and the tears, of this scene? She has to send out her husband-get him to leave so he doesn't get killed.

There's a bunch of hitmen outside David's house, waiting to assassinate him in the morning light. And now David knows it!

If you knew there were a bunch of men ready to kill you in the morning, how would you react? How do you think David reacted? I know how-you do too-turn to Psalm 59 please.

To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy."^[fn] A Michtam of David when Saul sent men, and they watched the house in order to kill him.

1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;

Defend me from those who rise up against me.

2 Deliver me from the workers of iniquity,

And save me from bloodthirsty men.

3 For look, they lie in wait for my life;

The mighty gather against me,

Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD.

4 They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine.

Awake to help me, and behold!

5 You therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel,

Awake to punish all the nations;

Do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah

6 At evening they return,

They growl like a dog,

And go all around the city.

7 Indeed, they belch with their mouth;

Swords are in their lips;

For they say, "Who hears?"

8 But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them;
You shall have all the nations in derision.

9 I will wait for You, O You his Strength;^[fn]
For God is my defense.

10 My God of mercy^[fn] shall come to meet me;
God shall let me see my desire on my enemies.

11 Do not slay them, lest my people forget;
Scatter them by Your power,
And bring them down,
O Lord our shield.

12 For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips,
Let them even be taken in their pride,
And for the cursing and lying which they speak.

13 Consume them in wrath, consume them,
That they may not be;
And let them know that God rules in Jacob
To the ends of the earth .Selah

14 And at evening they return,
They growl like a dog,
And go all around the city.

15 They wander up and down for food,
And howl^[fn] if they are not satisfied.

16 But I will sing of Your power;
Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning;
For You have been my defense
And refuge in the day of my trouble.

17 To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises;
For God is my defense,
My God of mercy.

David responds to assassins outside his door with prayer and praise.

But as we've discussed numerous times, there's a time to pray, and a time to act. David has prayed, and now he acts.

12-14

12 So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped. 13 And Michal took an image and laid it in the bed, put a cover of goats' hair for his head, and covered it with clothes. 14 So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick." Why an illness stops you from killing someone I don't know. Maybe it's in the assassin's code, "Don't kill a sick person?"

15 Then Saul sent the messengers back to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." Notice the intensity of the king's hatred. Saul wants to deal the death blow personally with his own hand.

16 And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats' hair for his head. 17 Then Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?"

And Michal answered Saul, “He said to me, ‘Let me go! Why should I kill you?’ Here we see a difference in Michal and Jonathan. Jonathan was bold in his defense of David. David’s wife Michal claims David threatened her life to help him escape. Not only has Saul betrayed David, now his wife has betrayed him as well.

18 So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth. Realizing Saul was determined to destroy him, David made his way to the prophet, Samuel. Samuel not only talked to David, but walked with him to the next town. How this must have strengthened David’s heart.

In our darkest moments the Lord will often bring others alongside of us to comfort and encourage us.

19 Now it was told Saul, saying, “Take note, David is at Naioth in Ramah!” 20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. The delegation from Saul came inspired by the anger and jealousy of a madman, but suddenly God overtakes them and they began to prophesy.

21 And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. ” Every time Saul sends a guy to Naioth to do his dirty work God gets ahold of them.

22 Then he also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is at Sechu. So he asked, and said, “Where are Samuel and David?”

And someone said, “Indeed they are at Naioth in Ramah.” Three times, the Holy Spirit said to Saul, “Leave David alone. My Spirit

is stronger than you are. You will never win this battle against Me and against David.”

But Saul didn't listen. Instead, he decides to take matters into his own hands

23 So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. 24 And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, “Is Saul also among the prophets? This is bizarre! A nude prophet... a preacher streaker... Whatever he prophesied, you can be sure Saul proclaimed the naked truth!

What's happening here? Saul refused to humble himself before God, and so God found a way to humble him.

But this also teaches us an important lesson. A person can be affected by the power of God (resulting in amazing experiences), but not surrendered to the power of God, which results in a changed life.

As we'll see over the coming weeks, Saul will continue his murderous pursuit of David.

Chapters 18-19 kinda flew fast, but we can't underestimate the pain, and the hardship, the tears that flowed from David as he endured this pain.

None of us like suffering. None of us loves to be enrolled in God's school of Brokenness

Hebrews 5:8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.