



Freed From all Fear

Not Afraid - Week 3

Main Text: 1 Samuel 18:6–12; 1 Samuel 24; Psalm 34, 56, 57

Theme: Saul's fear of David destroyed him; David's fear of the Lord sustained him.

Big Idea: The fear that rules you will shape your future. Fear of man leads to destruction; fear of the Lord leads to life.

1. The Story Begins: When Fear Enters the Kingdom

📖 1 Samuel 17–18

Context:

David rises from shepherd to hero after defeating Goliath. The crowd sings, *“Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”*

Saul's Response:

“Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed from Saul.” (1 Samuel 18:12)

◆ **Saul's Fear Was Rooted in Insecurity**

- **Saul's fear** wasn't reverence — it was **insecurity** and **comparison**.
- When God's favor shifted, Saul's fear became **jealousy**, then **rage**, then **violence**.
- He began to see David as a threat instead of God's chosen successor.
- When you fear *people's approval*, you'll always see others as a threat.

📌 *Proverbs 29:25* – “The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.”

2. David’s Fear Was Rooted in Reverence

 1 Samuel 24 & 26

In both stories, David has Saul at his mercy in a cave and again in a camp.
He could end his running — but he refuses.

“The Lord forbid that I should lay my hand on the Lord’s anointed.” (1 Sam. 24:6)

◆ David Feared God More Than Losing His Chance

- David had every reason to fear *Saul* — hunted like an animal, betrayed, driven from home.
- Yet in the caves of **Adullam** and **Engedi**, David’s decisions were guided by a greater fear: **the fear of the Lord**.
- Twice, he refused to take Saul’s life, because he feared dishonoring God more than he feared dying.

 Psalm 57:1–2 – “Have mercy on me, O God... I will take refuge in the shadow of Your wings until the disaster has passed.”

 Psalm 34:4 – “I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.”

Application:

When you fear God most, you fear nothing else. Reverence brings rest.

3. The Fruit of Each Fear

Aspect	Saul’s Fear (of David)	David’s Fear (of the Lord)
Source	Insecurity, pride	Reverence, trust
Focus	Self-preservation	God’s presence
Result	Jealousy, rage, paranoia	Peace, protection, favor
End	Death on his own sword	Promotion to the throne
Legacy	“The Spirit departed from Saul” (1 Sam 16:14)	“A man after God’s own heart” (1 Sam 13:14)
• If we fear <i>losing control, others’ opinions, or personal failure</i>, we’ll fall into Saul’s trap. • If we fear <i>the Lord</i> — revering His will and trusting His timing — we’ll walk David’s path.		

 Psalm 56:3–4 – “When I am afraid, I put my trust in You... What can flesh do to me?”

 Psalm 34:9 – “Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no lack!”

Transition Thought:

Both men were afraid — the difference was *who they feared most*.

4. Two Endings, Two Futures

📖 1 Samuel 31 – 2 Samuel 1

- Saul's fear consumes him; he dies by his own sword on the battlefield.
- David hears the news and *weeps*, not rejoices — because he still honors God's anointed.
- The fear of the Lord kept David's heart soft even toward his enemy.

📖 Psalm 34:4 I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears.

💧 **Saul's fear took his life; David's fear gave him life.**

5. The Gospel Connection: The Greater David

Jesus, the true Son of David, also chose **the fear of the Lord** over **the fear of man**.

“Not My will, but Yours be done.” (Luke 22:42)

“He humbled Himself... therefore God exalted Him.” (Philippians 2:8–9)

- Saul grasped for his throne and lost it.
- David waited on God's throne and received it.
- Jesus surrendered His throne and gained the Kingdom forever.

The fear of the Lord doesn't take from you—it preserves you until the promise comes.