

1 Samuel 19–20

Theme

When David loses nearly everything—position, home, safety, mentor, and closest friendship—he teaches us how to trust God, refuse retaliation, receive help from faithful friends, and keep singing of God’s goodness in the darkest season.

I. Trials Often Produce the Songs That Strengthen Others

- David’s suffering becomes part of the soil from which the Psalms grow.
- The sermon opens by reminding us that the “rough spots” of life can create lasting spiritual impact.
- Illustrations: Spurgeon’s statement about sanctuary songs, Wayne Jerrolds’ comment about hard times and better music, “It Is Well with My Soul,” golf-ball dimples analogy.
- Main application: God can use painful seasons to make our testimony deeper, stronger, and more useful to others.

II. Jonathan Shows the Ministry of a Faithful Friend

- Text: 1 Samuel 19:1–7.
- Jonathan warns David, advocates for him, and speaks truth to Saul.
- Jonathan gives Saul three reasons not to kill David: David has done no wrong, David has benefited Saul, and killing an innocent man would be sin against God.
- Key lesson: believers should deescalate tension rather than agitate it.

- Application: Because we worship the Prince of Peace, we should be peacemakers.

III. David Refuses to Throw the Spear Back

- Text: 1 Samuel 19:8–10.
- David is rising in victory while Saul is collapsing inwardly in jealousy, fear, and torment.
- Saul throws the spear, but David refuses to retaliate—even though he had the skill and opportunity to do so.
- Key image: Saul held a weapon; David held an instrument.
- Application: Spiritual maturity means absorbing the blow without answering sin with sin.
- Pastoral illustration: conflict patterns learned in broken homes can be healed over time through patience, humility, and godly examples.
- Worship becomes a weapon: praise keeps our hands from retaliation and reminds us that God fights our battles.

IV. David Begins Losing the Life He Knew

- Text: 1 Samuel 19:11–17.
- Saul sends men to David’s house to kill him, and Michal helps David escape through a window.
- David’s losses begin to accumulate: he loses palace position, home security, and eventually harmony with Michal.
- Psalm 59 gives us David’s heart during this moment: he cries for deliverance while surrounded by enemies.

- Key observation: sometimes opposition comes not from strangers, but from people in one's own camp.
- Application: when life feels stripped away, God remains a fortress and refuge.

V. God Disarms Saul Through Worship and Prayer

- Text: 1 Samuel 19:18–24.
- David flees to Samuel at Ramah, seeking strength from an old spiritual mentor.
- Saul repeatedly sends men to capture David, but each group is overtaken by the Spirit of God and begins prophesying.
- God is doing two things: offering a chance for redemption and preventing Saul's men from killing David.
- When Saul himself comes, God humbles him publicly, showing that Saul is not merely fighting David—he is fighting God.
- Application: unrepentant sin leads to shame and confusion, but humility before God leads to restoration.

VI. David Loses His Best Friend

- Text: 1 Samuel 20.
- David runs to Jonathan and asks what he has done wrong; he feels there is only a step between him and death.
- Jonathan responds with practical love: "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you."
- Jonathan and David create the arrow signal around the New Moon feast to determine Saul's intentions.

- Saul's rage exposes his corruption: verbal attack, guilt tactics, fear tactics, control, and physical violence.
- Jonathan is grieved by his father's shameful treatment of David and signals that David must flee.
- David and Jonathan part in tears; David weeps the most because he is stepping into lonely years of exile.

VII. David's Hope: "I Will Sing"

- Psalm 59 becomes the closing lens for the sermon.
- David has no palace, no home, no safety, and no nearby friend—but he still has God.
- Key confession: "But I will sing of your strength; in the morning I will sing of your love."
- Application: believers can sing before circumstances change because God is still fortress, refuge, strength, and faithful love.

VIII. Closing Invitation

- The sermon moves from David's danger to the listener's eternal condition.
- There is only a step between each person and death, but there is also a step between each person and life.
- That step is trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Final appeal: do not gamble with eternity; take the step toward eternal life.
- Response: prayer and worship through "Goodness of God."