

Reflecting on 1 Samuel 18-19 February 9, 2020

Introduction: This week, we trace the rise of David amidst the opposition at the hand of King Saul. In this passage, we make three observations about how David responds to Saul's opposition and how God watches over him. These observations translate into three keys of character for believers who face opposition:

1. Grounded believers show kindness in the face of opposition. (18:1-12)
2. Grounded believers respond humbly to good-favor. (18:17-30)
3. Grounded believers trust in God's plan and provision for their lives. (19:1-24)

Based on these three character keys: kindness, humility, and faith, we find the big idea of the text:
The key to staying grounded when others oppose you is grounding yourself in the God who is for you.

Questions:

1. Which of the three keys to character (kindness, humility, faith) is most needed in your life?

2. How can sinners like you and me, grow in these areas that often don't come naturally to us? (See Col. 1:9-10 & 2 Peter 1:3-8 for some idea about Christians grow.)

3. Read 1 Sam 18:6-9. How did Saul respond when David prospered? How should a Christian respond when others are blessed or prosper (especially in situations when we do not)? What would it take for us to be truly joyful for others who are blessed in ways we wish we were?

4. Early on in these chapters, David is an example of loyalty and kindness. He treats Saul, who attempts to kill him, with compassion. Based on Eph. 4:32, why should believers be kind and forgive others? Discuss how this works out practically in various relationships represented in the church body.

5. The Christian virtue of humility runs counter to the thinking of our culture. We live in a “me first” world...and we fit in all too well. What is humility? Why is humility a virtue we should pursue? (See Phil 2:2-7 & Col. 3:12-13)

6. God’s work on David’s behalf is evidenced through 1 Sam 18-19, and especially at the end where God directly and miraculously intervenes. God is equally concerned with our lives and working out his plan for us. Read Romans 8:28-29. Who is in control of all the circumstances of our lives? What does He promise He is doing through our circumstances? When in our lives is this the most hard to accept?