Mike Colaw

The Kingdom of Israel

King David 1st Samuel 17 Focus on vs. 34-36

A year through the Bible

April 30, 2023

Mike’s Moments:

* Pray for Randy and Brigette.
* This next week we will have another prayer and worship Sunday. Join us!

Opening Illustration:

Let’s do a quick review: How the kings of old fall.

It’s a cycle. God identifies a humble heart. They gain affluence. They begin to have spiritual amnesia. They lean into arrogant autonomy. Cut off from the vine of life, they fall.

How the kings of old fall. (I would love the graph below on the screen.)

Our soul is *NOT* most at risk when we are desperate for God. We are spiritually most at risk when we think we don’t need Him.

A good heart takes the Sabbath seriously and resists what works to push God out.

A good heart is a humble, unhurried heart before the Lord.

Sermon Opening:

Let’s move to today’s message.

Scriptures:

Focus on: 1 Samuel 17:34-36 (ESV) (Starting on 266 in the chair Bibles.) David and Goliath.

Have you ever had God place something deep in your heart only to find yourself waiting… and waiting and waiting… to see anything happen?

Then come the doubts.

* Was God actually speaking?
* Did you do something wrong?
* Is any of this even real?

Mark Twain famously said: “The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."

Walking in your purpose is so powerful, yet many of us don’t feel like we are there.

Young David gets this in big ways. This poor country boy had a powerful moment happen. He was told that he was going to be the king! Think about what that means.

You go from broke to the wealthiest person in the country.

You go from unknown to the most famous person in the country.

You go from the lowest honored job to the most honored job.

You go from disrespected to highly respected.

David was promised all the great things that come with being king.

Yet, God allowed him to go back to where he was before, doing the same lowly things.

I wonder if there were days, months or maybe even years he had the same doubts…

* Was God actually speaking?
* Did he do something wrong?
* Is any of this even real?

While David was killing time not seeing his promises come to life, war with the heathen Philistines broke out again. I mean “heathen”. The Philistines would burn and kill their children to their gods, they were blood hungry, sexually perverse, gluttons and they had aligned themselves as rebels against God. They were the embodiment of the opposite of charitable love. As the two armies gather to fight a Champion of the Philistines steps out and calls out Israel’s champion, Saul.

Champion against champion.

Saul, who was already sinning in heart because of the distance he created between himself and God, refuses to take up the fight.

David comes on the scene and is willing to step up and defend God. In fact, David actually says you think you are coming against a champion, you are actually coming up against God. (Vs. 45-46) In His request to fight Goliath he tells this story.

Text:

1 Samuel 17:34–37 (ESV)

But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” And David said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!”

* In this moment of grand purpose is the big back story. Can you see it? David’s waiting.

Enter the story with me. I can see David sitting on a hillside after he was anointed to be king in a small semi-private ceremony. The promise looms over his future but it isn’t realized. He still works a lowly job. He still smells of sheep dung, he still prays to God wondering what is supposed to happen next. His days are filled with waiting and tedious labor that feel meaningless. Then, out of nowhere a dangerous lion or bear steals away one of his sheep. Now he puts his life on the line for an animal a king would give little or no attention to.

* There is a waiting. In David’s waiting it externally looks like nothing is happening. However, God is doing an inner work.
* What is God doing in His waiting?
  + God is anchoring his heart before his hands go to work. Remember what takes down kings.
  + God is teaching David to trust in His promises not David’s gifting. Remember what takes down kings.
  + God is teaching David where true effectiveness, strength and staying power comes from, God himself. Remember what takes down kings.
* Don’t waste your waiting. Lean into Christ when you are in seasons of waiting, so you will continue to lean into Christ when He mobilizes your hands.
* Let me offer some scriptures to remember while you are in seasons of waiting.
  + 2 Peter 3:9 (ESV) The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. This is about the Day of the Lord, but it displays God’s patient heart.
  + Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Final Thoughts:

* There will come a day when it will all come together.
  + Galatians 6:9 (ESV) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
  + It was so with David too.
  + 1 Samuel 17:45–46 (ESV)

Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

* Notice, David makes God the real champion Goliath will fight, not Saul and not himself. God gets the glory. Remember what takes down kings.

A couple big picture things to consider as you own this story.

* David didn’t go looking for ways to show off. He was merely delivering meat and cheese and God set the stage. Let God decide the timing and breadth of your impact. You protect the depth of intimacy with God. Remember what takes down kings.
* David’s story is full of him working from a place of honor and humility. David didn’t steal authority; He filled a void God designed and even waited on Israel’s approval to step into it.
* What if waiting is not actually waiting. What if waiting is the real work?

Next Steps:

How does God want to shape your view of waiting?