



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 2

FROM SUCCESS TO SUSPICION

He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” And Saul eyed David from that day on.

– 1 Samuel 18:8-9 ESV

- **When we last left David**

*Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And **the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.*** – 1 Samuel 16:13 NLT

- The same thing had happened to Saul

*When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart....and **the Spirit of God rushed upon him...*** – 1 Samuel 10:9, 10 ESV

- But something else occurred

*Now **the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul**, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.* – 1 Samuel 16:14 ESV

“Saul retained the crown, the symbol of his reign, but He lost the power to rule. With the removal of the Spirit of God, he ‘turned into another man’ again, but this time, not for the better. Without the abiding presence of God’s Spirit, Saul was left to his own fleshly, sinful self. And he was left open to the influence of Satan. We are not told the nature or source of the ‘harmful spirit’ that tormented Saul, but it is clear that God, in His sovereign plan, allowed this spirit to come upon him.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Life of David*

- **God must have a sense of humor**

- David was anointed, but not appointed
 - He’s gone back to shepherding sheep
 - While Saul battles his inner demon
 - But God had plans for both men

- Saul's possession had a **purpose**

*Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to **seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre**, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well."* – 1 Samuel 16:15-17 ESV

- David's gift was **God-given**

*One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and **the LORD is with him**."* – 1 Samuel 16:18 ESV

- This is the sovereign hand of God
 - Saul had a God-ordained **problem**
 - David was the God-ordained **solution**

*And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for **he has found favor in my sight**."* – 1 Samuel 16:21-22 ESV

- **David was a work in process**

- He was...a man after God's own heart
 - ...good-looking and gifted
 - ...hard-working and reliable
 - ...diligent and faithful
- But he wasn't prepared to be king
- He was a king in the making
 - It was God's plan for Israel to have a king
 - He had promised Abram:

*"I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and **kings shall come from you**."* – Genesis 17:6 ESV

*"As for Sarai your wife...I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; **kings of peoples shall come from her**."* – Genesis 17:15, 16 ESV

- A tale of two kings – 1 Samuel 17
 - Saul was the king **in name**

*"For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and **the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel**."* – 1 Samuel 15:26 ESV

*“The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and **has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.**” – 1 Samuel 15:28 ESV*

- David was the king **in waiting**
 - Saul remained on the throne
 - But David was his official replacement
 - He was **chosen** but not yet **crowned**
- **Revealing the real king of Israel**
 - A conflict commences
Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. – vs 1
 - A champion steps forward
...there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. – vs 4
 - A challenge is issued
“Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.” – vs 8-9
 - A chicken is exposed
When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. – vs 11

“Saul was tormented by a spirit that attacked him relentlessly, leaving him unable to do his job as king. Goliath represents a physical manifestation of that same spirit, tormenting the people of God and creating in them fear and dismay. They stood before their enemy leaderless and helpless.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Life of David*

- The shepherd/harpist shows up
 - David is bi-vocational
 - Shepherding his family’s sheep
 - Serving as Saul’s music therapist
 - Delivering care packages to his brothers
 - David sees Goliath in the flesh

...the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. – 1 Samuel 17:23 ESV

“What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” – 1 Samuel 17:26 ESV

- Saul tried to pass the buck
 - He was unwilling to face the giant
 - So he offered a reward
 - Riches and glory
 - His daughter's hand in marriage
 - Exemption from conscription and taxes
- David was appalled at Israel's apathy
 - He wasn't interested in Saul's reward
 - He wanted to defend God's glory

"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." – 1 Samuel 17:37 ESV

- **The battle is the LORD's**

- David refuses Saul's armor (flesh)
- He faces the giant in confidence (faith)

*"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, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and **he will give you into our hand.**"* – 1 Samuel 17:45-47 ESV

- David displayed his trust in Yahweh
- This isn't about slings and stones
- It's about God's sovereignty and superiority

A Psalm of David

The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you. – Psalm 9:9-10 ESV

- **From success to suspicion**

David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. – 1 Samuel 18:5 ESV

- David went from shepherd to celebrity
 - He became a household name
 - Songs were written about him

- And Saul became angry

The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice. – 1 Samuel 18:10-11 ESV

- God's hand was on David
But David evaded him... – vs 11
Saul made him a commander... – vs 13
David had success... – vs 14
...the LORD was with him – vs 14
Saul stood in fearful awe of him – vs 15
Israel and Judah loved David – vs 16
- But Saul's hatred only intensified
Saul was David's enemy continually – vs 29
- He never stopped trying to kill David
 - Yet David was continually blessed by God

David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed. – vs 29

- David had...a new promotion
 ...a growing reputation
 ...and a powerful enemy

And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. – 1 Samuel 19:1 ESV

- Saul demanded David's death
 - Jonathan interceded
 - David's wife intervened
 - But Saul's anger was not abated
- **From rock star to refugee – Chapter 20**
 - David asks Jonathan to intervene again
 - But Saul sees through their plan
 - And he tries to kill his own son

Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan...Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him. So Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to death. – 1 Samuel 20:30 ESV

Psalm 59 – A look into David’s heart

A psalm of David, regarding the time Saul sent soldiers to watch David’s house in order to kill him.

- David sought refuge in God

¹ Rescue me from my enemies, O God. Protect me from those who have come to destroy me.

³ They have set an ambush for me. Fierce enemies are out there waiting, LORD, though I have not sinned or offended them.

¹⁶ But as for me, I will sing about your power. Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love. For you have been my refuge, a place of safety when I am in distress.

- **Discussion questions**

What did you learn from today’s lesson?

When you consider all that David was going through, how does it change the way you read Psalm 59?

Have you ever experienced a similar “fall from grace” like David? How did it make you feel? What lessons did you learn? And how can you look back and see God’s hand in it?



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FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 3 HOMEWORK

WEEK 3 – When A Man After God's Own Heart Loses Heart

This section of 1 Samuel covers David's fun-filled days as a fugitive. He is a man on the run, forced to live in hiding to escape the unrelenting wrath of Saul. These chapters paint a fairly bleak portrait of David's existence and reveal a staggering trail of tragedy and death in David's wake. David is operating in an open-loop manner, refusing to seek Yahweh's will and relying on his wits and survival instincts.

PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 21-27

DEVOTIONARY™: Pages 61-124

- This week's Devotional™ reading is long, so set aside time each day to read a section of it. As you read, write down any thoughts that jump out at you.

- 1 Samuel 21 records David's flight from the wrath of Saul. Look at verses 1-9, then write down any problems you see with David's strategy.

Now look at verses 10-15. What signs do you see that David was operating according to his will and not the LORD's?

- Chapter 22 records David's decision to seek refuge in the cave of Adullam. Read verses 1-5, then read Psalm 142, which was written during those difficult days. What insights does the Psalm provide about David's mental and spiritual state?

What do verses 6-19 of 1 Samuel say about the mental and spiritual state of Saul?

What do these verses say about David's decision to seek help from the priest of Nob?

What does David do in verses 20-23 that reveal he has a heart for God?

- Chapter 23 provides another striking contrast between David and Saul. What evidence do you see of the glaring difference between these two men?
- What do you see in chapter 24 that differentiates David and Saul?
- What characters are being contrasted in chapter 25 and what does it tell you about David at this point in time?
- Once again, as you look over chapter 26, how is the character of David and Saul contrasted?
- In chapter 27, David is portrayed in a very unfavorable light. What does it reveal about him?