



The Fall

Main Idea: Understanding who David was gives us credibility to trust so much of the Word—especially the Psalms. But David cannot be understood without Saul. Saul’s fall shows us the futility of half-hearted devotion, while David’s rise shows us the fruit of full-hearted trust.

1. The Warning of Samuel (1 Samuel 12:20-21)

“Do not be afraid. You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless.”

- Samuel reminds Israel: **turning from God leads only to futility.**
- This sets the stage: Saul will embody this warning—a **king chosen, yet turned aside.**
- Contrast: David will embody the opposite—a **heart that returns to God, even in failure.**

Application for His Youth: We want “David-level victories,” but too often we live with “Saul’s memory”—half-hearted, forgetful, distracted.

2. Saul vs David: The Contrast

- **Saul’s Rise:** chosen, anointed, filled with initial victories (1 Sam 11).
- **Saul’s Fall:** disobedience at Gilgal (1 Sam 13), sparing Agag (1 Sam 15)—**he feared people more than God.**
- **Why did Saul lose the kingdom?** His heart was never fully committed (1 Sam 15:22-23).
- **Yet—even in judgment:** “For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people” (1 Sam 12:22). God’s plan is bigger than Saul’s failure.
- **David’s Rise:** not perfect, but different—his heart was “after God” (1 Sam 13:14).
- **Point:** *There is no David without Saul.* God used Saul as a vessel to prepare the stage for David.

Application: Sometimes God uses the “failures” in front of us—leaders, systems, even our own mistakes—to prepare us for faith-filled obedience.

3. David and Goliath: Faith on Display (1 Samuel 17)

- **David's Ordinary Day:** just obeying his father, delivering bread and cheese. Obedience in small things opens the door to extraordinary moments.
- **Accusation & Critique:** his brothers mock him (17:28). Don't expect support from everyone—even those closest.
- **Saul's Doubt:** "You are not able... you are only a boy" (17:33). Saul sees limits; David sees God's power.
- **David's Confidence:** He recalls past victories (lion and bear, 17:34-37). *A heart of praise remembers God's past faithfulness.*
- **The Battle:** David ran to meet Goliath (17:48). Faith doesn't hesitate.
- **The Declaration:** "So that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" (17:46). This is the heart of David's fight—God's glory, not his own.

4. Application to This Generation

- **Our Goliaths:** fear, anxiety, depression, identity confusion—giants taunting a generation.
- **The Question:** Do you know Him? Have you seen Him work in your life? (Psalm 34:8 – "Taste and see that the Lord is good.")
- **The Call:** Like David, we are on the stage for a reason—**so that all the earth may know there is a God in Israel.**
- **The Response:**
 - Hebrews 12:2 – "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith."
 - Romans 8:31 – "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
 - Psalm 27:1 – "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?"

5. Close – Back to Christ

You see, we love David's story because it's raw, it's real, it's human. But we cannot stop at David. David is not the hero—he is the foreshadow.

- Saul shows us the futility of half-heartedness.
- David shows us the possibility of faith-filled obedience.
- But **Jesus is the fulfillment.**

Because look at it through the right lens:

- **David ran to the battle.** Jesus ran to the cross.
- **David stood in front of the enemy of God's people.** Jesus stood in front of sin and death.
- **David took Goliath's sword and cut off his head.** Jesus crushed the serpent's head with His heel (Genesis 3:15).
- **David's victory brought freedom to a nation.** Jesus' victory brought freedom to the world.

And listen—David didn't win because he was strong; he won because God was strong through him.

Jesus didn't win with sword and spear; He won by laying Himself down.

“So that all the earth may know there is a God in Israel.”

Now through the cross and resurrection, **all the earth may know there is a Savior named Jesus.**

This is what the Psalms whisper, what the prophets echo, what the Gospels shout: **the true Son of David has come, and His victory is final.**

So students—don’t just want “David-level victory” in your life. Look past David. See Jesus. He is the Champion who already fought your greatest battle. He already silenced the giant of sin, fear, anxiety, death itself.

Your role? To stand in His victory. To worship like David worshiped—not because you’re strong, but because Jesus is.

Final Exhortation

So tonight, if you’re anxious, if you feel crushed, if you feel unworthy—hear this: **You don’t face your giant alone. Christ already ran into the valley for you. He already won.**

Now you can run to every battle in your life with this confidence:

“Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 15:57)

So let’s be like David—hearts that worship, hearts that trust. But let’s live for Jesus—**the greater David, the true King.**

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