

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

Worship Evening Logo

- No Kids Zone

Easter Sunday Logo

What is the goal of this exercise?

- And for that matter, why do we meet every Sunday?

"... your name and renown are the desire of our hearts." Isaiah 26:8

What will it take from our side to achieve this?

- FAITH.
- Faith is and will always be the Victory.

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

1 Samuel 14:1-15¹ One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over ^[action word] to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father.

² Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migrin. With him were about six hundred men, ³ among whom was Ahaai-jah, who was wearing an ephed. He was a son of Ichabod's brother A-hê-tub son of Fe-na-has, the son of Eli, the Lord's priest in Shi-low. No one was aware that Jonathan had left.

⁴ On each side of the pass that Jonathan intended to cross to reach the Philistine outpost was a cliff; one was called Bou-zez, and the other Se-nay. ⁵ One cliff stood to the north toward Mic-ma-sh, the other to the south toward Geb-ba.

⁶ Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few."

⁷ "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

⁸ Jonathan said, "Come, then; we will cross over toward the men and let them see us. ⁹ If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are and not go up to them.

¹⁰ But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the Lord has given them into our hands." ¹¹ So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost.

"Look!" said the Philistines. "The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in." ¹² The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson."

So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Climb up after me; the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel." ¹³ Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him.

¹⁴ In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre.

In essence this story is about two kinds of people.

- And the kind of impact that they can (or cannot) have for God.

Who are these two kinds of people?

1. The faithless and ...
2. The faithful.

So, in our time together this morning we are going to take a look at ...

- Four characteristics of the Faithless and ...
- Three of the Faithful that we can get from this passage.

Let's start with ...

The Faithless

What does the faithless person look like?

1. The Faithless LOVE the SHADE.

There is an impending conflict between the Philistines and Israel

- And where is Israel's king in the midst of it all?

1 Samuel 14:2 Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migrin.

The faithless LOVE the Shade!

They love comfort.

- The comfort of their home.
- The comfort of their TV.
- The comfort of their rhythm & schedule.

They build their life around their children.

- Kids must go to bed ...
- Kids must have their nap ...
- ...

The faithless definitely don't want to be inconvenienced.

- If an opportunity falls right into your lap, you "might" consider it.

MID-WEEK???

- ????

2. The Faithless Hides in Holes.

1 Samuel 14:11 "Look!" said the Philistines. "The Hebrews are crawling out of the HOLES they were HIDING in."

The faithless leader hides in the hole of ...

- Their career.
- Their family.
- The personality. (THIS IS BIG!!!)
- ...
-

3. The Faithless always has a Reason as to why things Cannot be Done.

1 Samuel 14:1 "One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." BUT he did not tell his father."

Why did he not tell his father?

- Could it be because his faithless Father ...
- Would have given him 10 reasons as to why it cannot be done.
- And that the safest place for them to be was right there under the tree.

The faithless leader will say things like ...

- I cannot bring friends to the Easter celebration because it is too far.
- I cannot reach out to anyone, because no one is in CT over Easter.

Listen, I would have loved to focus on this ...

- But, I tried it before and it didn't work.
- My life is too crazy! I don't have the time.
- People won't be interested.
- ...

4. The Faithless DO NOT have God.

Why did the author mention the priest A-hai-ja?

- Who was the son of Ichabod's brother A-hê-tub?

Was it just random or was there more to it?

- Was his name maybe thrown in there ...
- As some form of explanation of sorts as to why Saul was so helpless?

Let's back track here for a moment and go to 1 Samuel 4

- Israel was at war and overcome by the enemy.
- And in the process the ark of God ^[Ark of the Covenant] was taken.

The Ark of God was a golden covered wooden chest containing ...

- The two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments.
- It also contained Aaron's rod and a pot of Manna.

After it was taken a messenger ran to Eli the priest ...

- To break the news saying ...

1 Samuel 4:16–21 ¹⁶ ... "I have just come from the battle line; I fled from it this very day." Eli asked, "What happened, my son?"

¹⁷ The man who brought the news replied, "Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured."

¹⁸ When he mentioned the ark of God, ^[not the sons] Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man and heavy. He had led Israel forty years. ^[Huge loss.]

¹⁹ His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery.

When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth, but was overcome by her labor pains.

²⁰ As she was dying, the women attending her said, "Don't despair; you have given birth to a son." But she did not respond or pay any attention.

²¹ She named the boy Ichabod, saying, "THE GLORY HAS DEPARTED from Israel."

Why was Saul so faithless and comfortable there in the shade?

- Because the Glory of the Lord had departed.
- He was not a "Man of God" anymore, he was just a Man.
- ...

The Faithfull

1. The Faithfull Steps Out

This story is filled with action words from Jonathan's side.

- v.1 "Let's go over to the Philistine outpost ..."
- v.6 "Let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows."
- v.7 "Go ahead, I am with you heard and soul."
- v.8 "Come then, we will cross over towards the men and let them see us."
- v.12 "Climb up after me."
- v.13 "Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and his feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him."

The faithful cannot handle the holes and the shades.

- They step out of the house.
- Out of their comfort zone.
- Out of ...

2. The Faithfull takes Risks

1 Samuel 14:6 "Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf."

You have to love his spirit ...

- Perhaps the Lord will act on our behalf.

The faithful often say ...

- I wonder what would happen if ...
- I invite that person ... If ...
- ...

3. The Faithful Focuses on GOD, Not their Circumstances

1 Samuel 14:6 "NOTHING can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

Saul's army had a bit of an artillery problem.

- They only had two swords among the 600 of them.

Jonathan's attitude.

⁶ "Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few."

Although Jonathan took the initiative ...

- He wasn't counting on his own superior swordsmanship.
- Nor great numbers on his side or the element of surprise.
- But the fact that he believed that God was in the cause.
- He intended for this to be a victory, not for himself, BUT for God.
- This was about HIS name and HIS renown.

Recently I stumbled upon the biography of a biblical scholar of the 90's ...

- Named J.B. Tidwell.
- This title of the book is: J.B. Tidwell plus God.

The thesis of the biographer was that many remarkable things ...

- Can be accomplished when the resources of God are joined ...
- With the commitment of one faithful follower

There is what I can do ...

- ...

But what about Werner Vos + God ...

- What would that look like?

How would you act differently and live differently ...?

- If you actually believed that God was with you in what you did.

- That he is with you in making his name and renown ...
- Great among the nations?

When Jonathan and his armor bearer stepped out in faith the scriptures says ...

1 Samuel 14:15 "THEN panic struck the whole army [he then explains what he means by "the whole army"]

—those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties—and the ground shook. It was a PANIC sent by GOD.

Unpack what this must have looked like.

Could it be that the thing that you lack ...

- Is not more resources, more time or church to be closer to your home...
- But FAITH!

Matthew tells a story in Matthew where he says ...

Matthew 9:27–29 ²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

²⁸ When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied.

²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you ..."

What is it going to take for us to make his name and renown great ...

- Through our Easter Weekend Celebration?
- FAITH!

I love how this story starts ...

1 Samuel 14:1 ¹ One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over ..."

At the beginning there was nothing that indicated ...

- That it would be a remarkable day.
- And that God would win a great victory.
- But then a man of faith stepped out of the shade ...
- And everything changed.

