

FIRST SAMUEL STUDY

CHAPTER 21:1-15

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHEN FAITH FAILS”

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Dependence, Faith, Longsuffering, Discipleship

INTRODUCTION

to the text

I Samuel 21:1-15

WHEN OUR FAITH FAILS

1.) *Our old life makes a come back*

vv.1-6

1a.) *We'll “struggle” with the truth*

Verse 1-3

Now David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech was afraid when he met David, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one is with you?" ² So David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has ordered me on some business, and said to me, 'Do not let anyone know anything about the business on which I send you, or what I have commanded you.' And I have directed my young men to such and such a place ³ "Now therefore, what have you on hand? Give me five loaves of bread in my hand, or whatever can be found."

1b.) We'll "downgrade" the things of God

Verse 4-5

And **the priest** answered David and **said**, "There is no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women. ⁵ Then **David** answered the priest, and **said** to him, "Truly, women have been kept from us about three days since I came out. And the vessels of the young men are holy, **and the bread is in effect common**, even though it was sanctified in the vessel this day.

1c.) We'll "manipulate" others

Verse 6

So the priest gave him holy bread; for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the LORD, in order to put hot bread in its place on the day when it was taken away.

Because we want control

**NOTICE THIS;
THAT THIS KIND OF CONDUCT IS NOT THE NORM FOR
DAVID. THIS IS DAVID'S SIN, BUT IT IS NOT HIS
CHARACTER TO LIVE LIKE THIS**

He's Living like a Man without God

WHEN OUR FAITH FAILS

2.) Then troubles will begin to appear

vv.7-9

2a.) Evil – it will plot against us

Verse 7

Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD. And his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chief of the herdsmen who belonged to Saul (Saul was his master, just like a dog)

Beware of Doeg

This Doeg Bites

When we walk on our own, alone out there, in the world we can get hurt very badly.

2b.) Ambition - We'll look to ourselves for help

Verse 8

And David said to (a-him-e-lick) Ahimelech, "Is there not here on hand a spear or a sword? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.

David - Wait a Minute

#1

Goliaths Sword Didn't Do a Thing for Him

#2

You're a Slingshot God kinda Guy

David You're Looking to Worldly Powers
to be your strength and protection

WHEN OUR FAITH FAILS

Then troubles will begin to appear

2c.) Carnality - We'll begin to trust in worldly things

Verse 9

So the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, there it is, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it. For there is no other except that one here."

And David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."

(a-him-e-lick) says,

we've got a sword here, it's goliaths old sword.

David says,

There is no other sword like that sword – wow!

WHEN OUR FAITH FAILS

3.) Our witness will suffer

vv.10-15

Our witness will suffer

3a.) Because we go back into defeat

Verse 10-11

Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul (fled the kingdom), and went to Achish the king of Gath ¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

David Had Already Beat the Philistines.

1 Samuel 17:8-10

Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me
⁹ "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. ¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

Why go back to the places that you and the Lord
have already defeated?

The Bar Room

The Dance Club

The Drug House

That Certain Place or Person

Why go back to a Defeated **People**?

Why go back to a Defeated **World**?

Why go back to a Defeated **Life**?

2 Peter 2:17-22

These (false brethren) are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever ¹⁸ For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error ¹⁹ While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage ²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through

the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning ²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them ²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

We Have No Business Going Back

**Pigs Wallow in the Mud
&
Dog's Eat Again Their Own Vomit**

But We are the Sheep of His Pasture

Disneyland
The World is Like a Sky Rocket
It's really cool - for about a minute.
It's loud, fast and exciting - for about a minute

I John 2:16-17

For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Verse 11

And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

The Enemy Knows Who You Are And Trembles...

Not because of you.
But because of the Lord inside you!

They Could See What Goliath Couldn't See,
David's God was Awesome in Power and Dwelt with Him

SPIRITUAL SUCCESSES

Are measured in victories and victories result in advancements

The Old Testament Man of God was a Solider

The New Testament Man of God is a Solider...

We're to be "Worshipful-Warriors"

Joshua 6:5-9

"It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him. ⁶ Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD. ⁷ And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD....

...⁸ So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them ⁹ The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

Psalm 150:3-6

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp ⁴
Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and
flutes ⁵ Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals ⁶ Let
everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.

WHEN OUR FAITH FAILS

Our witness will suffer

3b.) Because fear overcomes our faith

Verse 12

Now David took these words to heart,
and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath

Arent you david?

Arent you a Christian?

Arent you Simon Peter?

Sad but so Common for us Too

When Fear Begins to Win
This is what starts to happen.

#1

Fear itself will make it challenging

#2

Timidity will then creep in
(a lot of awesome Christian growth is lost to Timidity)
but it's such a "cute" thief

#3

Cowardice takes control over us
(it's a prison for the soul)

#4

the fatal result is Unbelief
unbelief will crush you to pieces

WHEN WE ARE... Operating Under Our own Power

We cannot, will not succeed under our own power

Acts 1:6-9

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? ⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

WHEN OUR FAITH FAILS *Our witness will suffer*

3c.) Because we become someone we're not

Verse 13

So he changed his behavior before them...

...feigned madness in their hands,
...scratched on the doors of the gate,
...and let his saliva fall down on his beard

THEN WE BECOME...

Powerless, Ineffective, Unusable

We Make Idiotic Decisions

We Act Like an Idiot

We Look Like an Idiot

We Feel Like an Idiot

We Have Been Saved by the King of Redemption.

Verse 14-15

A Sad but Comical Response

Then Achish said to his servants, "Look at this man, He's insane. Why have you brought him to me?"¹⁵ "Have I need of madmen (I have enough), that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence?
Should I let this man into my house?"

That Son of David is a Lunatic, Weirdo.

He's a Strange Guy

That Goliath Wippen' Must Have Freaked Him Out

WHEN OUR FAITH FAILS

We need the Fellowship of Others:

We need the Encouragement that Others bring:

We need God's Word more at these times:

We need a Better View of God's greatness and ministry:

HOW DO WE COME AROUND?

Don't Isolate yourself from others

Accept it when others lift you up

Get into a Personal Reading habit and a Bible study

Go out with God – get a vision, a purpose for living

A Call to Prayer After Glow