

Jonathan Encourages David

The Necessity of Reassuring People of What They Already Know.

Introduction:

What happens when we know the end from the beginning?

The importance of being reassured of what we already know to be true.

Illustration:

Key Verses: 1 Sam 23:15 (NASB) Now David became aware that Saul had come out to seek his life while David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh.

1 Sam 23:16 (NASB) And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God.

Transitional Statement: How does Jonathan encourage David?

Theme: Jonathan encourages David by reassuring David of what David already knows.

Applicational Theme: We can be a great encouragement to others when we reassure them of truths they already know.

We stand in need of encouragement when the circumstances of life serve as a discouragement to us and undermine our confidence in what we know and believe.

I. David stands in need of encouragement. The circumstances of life had served to undermine his confidence in what he already knew and believed.

A. David needs encouragement for his army was not always the best support.

1. The army sometimes feared.

1 Sam 23:1 (NASB) Then they told David, saying, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and are plundering the threshing floors."

1 Sam 23:2 (NASB) So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines, and deliver Keilah."

1 Sam 23:3 (NASB) But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid

here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the ranks of the Philistines?"

2. Note how the army's fear undermined what David already knew and believed.

1 Sam 23:4 (NASB) Then David inquired of the LORD once more. And the LORD answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand."

3. Though David's faith was undermined David still did the right thing.

1 Sam 23:5 (NASB) So David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines; and he led away their livestock and struck them with a great slaughter. Thus David delivered the inhabitants of Keilah.

- B. David needed encouragement due to the threatening activity of Saul.

1 Sam 23:6 (NASB) Now it came about, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand.

1. David needed encouragement for Saul had declared that God was on Saul's side.

1 Sam 23:7 (NASB) When it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah, Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he shut himself in by entering a city with double gates and bars."

2. David needed encouragement because of the great odds that were against him.

1 Sam 23:8 (NASB) So Saul summoned all the people for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

3. David needed encouragement because he was aware of Saul's sinister plans.

1 Sam 23:9 (NASB) Now David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here."

- C. David needed encouragement because of the bad news that God revealed to David.

1. David asks two questions of God.

- a. The first question is, "Will Saul peruse David in Keilah just as David had heard?"

1 Sam 23:10 (NASB) Then David said, "O LORD God of Israel, Thy servant has heard for certain that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah to destroy the city on my account.

1 Sam 23:11 (NASB) "Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as Thy servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Thy servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down."

- b. The second question is, "Will the people of Keilah hand David over to Saul?"

1 Sam 23:12 (NASB) Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you."

- 2. God answers "yes" to both of David's questions.

- a. Yes, Saul will indeed pursue David in Keilah.

1 Sam 23:11 (NASB) "Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as Thy servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Thy servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down."

- b. Yes, the people of Keilah will indeed hand over David and his men to Saul.

1 Sam 23:12 (NASB) Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you."

- D. Though David safely escapes from Keilah, Saul is after David once again.

1 Sam 23:14 (NASB) And David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

- II. The circumstances of life cannot only serve to discourage God's people, those very same circumstances can serve to bring confidence to God's people when viewed in the right

way.

Note the circumstances and manner in which God protected David.

- A. God first protected David from those who fought against David in the battle of Keilah.

1 Sam 23:5 (NASB) So David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines; and he led away their livestock and struck them with a great slaughter. Thus David delivered the inhabitants of Keilah.

- B. Second, God protected David in allowing David to become aware of Saul's plans.

1 Sam 23:9 (NASB) Now David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here."

- C. Third, God protected David by revealing the truth that David would not be safe in Keilah.

1 Sam 23:12 (NASB) Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you."

- D. Fourth, God protected David by allowing David to leave Keilah.

1 Sam 23:13 (NASB) Then David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the pursuit.

- E. Fifth, God protected David by having Saul end his hot pursuit.

1 Sam 23:13 (NASB) Then David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the pursuit.

- F. Sixth, God protected David by not delivering David into Saul's hand in spite of the fact that Saul was out to get David every single day.

1 Sam 23:14 (NASB) And David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

- III. Jonathan encourages David by reminding David of what David already knows.

1 Sam 23:17 (NASB) Thus he said to him, "Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father shall not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also."

A. Jonathan reassures David that Saul's plans will fail.

1 Sam 23:17 (NASB) Thus he said to him, "Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father shall not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also."

B. Jonathan reassures David that David will be the king of Israel.

1 Sam 23:17 (NASB) Thus he said to him, "Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father shall not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also."

Of course at this point David has already been anointed by Samuel to be king over Israel.

C. Jonathan reassures David that Jonathan is on David's side.

1 Sam 23:17 (NASB) Thus he said to him, "Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father shall not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also."

Of Course at this point Jonathan has already been befriending David against Jonathan's father Saul.

1 Sam. 20:1 ff.

1 Sam 20:12 (NASB) Then Jonathan said to David, "The LORD, the God of Israel, be witness! When I have sounded out my father about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if there is good feeling toward David, shall I not then send to you and make it known to you?"

1 Sam 20:13 (NASB) "If it please my father to do you harm, may the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also, if I do not make it known to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And may the LORD be with you as He has been with my father."

- D. Jonathan reassures David that while they are apart Jonathan will do David no harm.

1 Sam 23:18 (NASB) So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD; and David stayed at Horesh while Jonathan went to his house.

1 Sam 20:8 (NASB) "Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. But if there is iniquity in me, put me to death yourself; for why then should you bring me to your father?"

1 Sam 20:16 (NASB) So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD require it at the hands of David's enemies."

1 Sam 20:17 (NASB) And Jonathan made David vow again because of his love for him, because he loved him as he loved his own life.

IV. Conclusion:

- A. The Holy Spirit Himself encourages us by reassuring us of what we already know.

John 14:26 (NIV) But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

- B. Timothy, a preacher of the gospel, was to encourage his listeners by reassuring them of what they already know.

1 Cor 4:17 (NASB) For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

- C. The Scripture itself reiterates truth so that we will be reassured of what we already know.

2 Pet 3:1 (NIV) Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.