



September 7, 2025  
*A Man After God's Heart*  
**Opposition May Be Unavoidable**  
1 Samuel 18:6-16

1. **Opening Discussion:** (You will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. Was there ever a time as a child when someone else won a prize or contest that you felt you deserved? How did you react? What emotions did it stir up? Did the loss cause you to try harder or to give up?
- b. What's the longest you've ever had to wait for something that you've been promised? What was that experience like? How did you respond to the delay in receiving what was promised?
- c. Have you ever had a near-death experience? If so, describe the experience. How did it change your life in the future? What lessons did you learn from the experience?

2. **Prayer:**

- a. Adoration – Pray a Psalm or other Scripture to focus on praising God.
- b. Confession – Spend time confessing any known sins. 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – Thank God for answered prayers, blessings, gifts, and opportunities to serve.
- d. Supplications
  - i. Pray for the activities of His Church locally and around the world.
  - ii. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of others and yourself.
- e. **Least Reached People Group: Gorani of Albania** (*from the IMB "Loving the Lost Through Prayer" guide*)

“The Gorani people live in the mountainous intersection of Kosovo, Albania, and Macedonia. The Gorani keep to themselves and seldom marry anyone outside their people group. At traditional Gorani weddings, the bride wears a headscarf and holds a decorated umbrella as she rides a white horse to the home of her future husband. Islam remains a central part of their identity and, because of their isolation, the Gorani have limited access to the gospel. Ask God to knock on the hearts of the Gorani people. Despite their isolation, pray they will hear His voice and open the door to Him so they can experience true fellowship with God. Pray that they will find their identity in Him rather than in religious traditions.”

3. **Sermon Key Points**

- a. King Saul Quickly Began to Fear and Hate David
  - i. Saul started turning against David right after he killed Goliath
  - ii. David was faithful to God and King Saul despite Saul's hatred
- b. Opposition May Be Unavoidable But God Can Use It For His Purpose
  - i. Opposition is often unavoidable for God's people

- ii. God often uses ungodly opposition to accomplish His will
- c. In the Face of Opposition, Refuse Retribution and Walk In Faith
  - i. David never responded with violence
  - ii. Followers of Jesus must live the same way

#### 4. Bible Study:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
  - i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
  - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
  - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
  - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
  - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

- b. **Monday:**

- i. This week's focal passage marks the long period in David's life before he became king (see 2 Samuel 5:1-4) during which King Saul actively tried to kill David. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-16 three times. First read it quickly to get the big picture, then more carefully to note the details and facts, and finally slowly, pausing to meditate on each verse or sentence, looking for applications to your life.
  - 1. How would you sum up the passage in a single sentence?
  - 2. Who is the primary character of the passage? How would you describe him?
  - 3. What sins and/or character flaws did this character demonstrate?
- ii. According to verse 6, who were the people celebrating?
  - 1. What caused Saul to become upset at their praise?
  - 2. The song was probably Hebrew poetry, which uses parallelism and exaggeration to make points. What were the obvious exaggerations in this case?
  - 3. Even if Saul and David had struck down the actual number of the enemy the women sang about (and not all the other soldiers in the army), what human would ultimately have received credit for the victory? Who really deserved all the credit and all the praise for the victory being celebrated (see 1 Samuel 17:47b)?

- c. **Tuesday:**

- i. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-16.
  - 1. Then read these passages about jealousy: Exodus 20:4-6, Deuteronomy 4:24, Proverbs 27:4, Romans 13:13, 1 Corinthians 3:3, 2 Corinthians 11:2 & 12:20 and James 3:14-16.

2. And these verses about envy: Genesis 26:14, Psalm 37:1 & 73:3, Proverbs 3:31 & 24:1, Mark 7:20-23, Romans 1:29, Galatians 5:21 & 26, Titus 3:3, 1 Timothy 6:4, and 1 Peter 2:1
- ii. Where and by whom are jealousy and envy displayed in the focal passage?
- iii. How would you describe the difference or relationship between jealousy and envy?
  1. Is jealousy always a sin (in addition to the verses you've already read, consider Numbers 25:11-13 and 1 Kings 19:9-10)?
  2. As a form of coveting, envy violates one of the ten commandments (Exodus 20:17), but can it ever be a motive for positive (good) (see also Ecclesiastes 4:4 and Philippians 1:15)?
- iv. If Saul had recognized who deserved credit and praise for the victory, how would it have changed his reaction to the song? What lesson can we learn from this that applies to our lives?

*d. Wednesday:*

- i. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-16.
  1. Then read these verses about anger (wrath): Genesis 4:4-5, Exodus 32:19, Psalm 37:8, Proverbs 15:1 & 18, 27:4, & 29:22, Mark 3:4-5, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 4:26-27 & 31, Colossians 3:8, James 1:19-20.
  2. And these verses about murder: Exodus 20:13, Matthew 5:21-22, John 8:44, and 1 John 3:12 & 15
- ii. Where and by whom are anger and murder displayed in the focal passage?
  1. Even though Saul missed David twice when he threw his spear, what does Jesus say about his guilt in Matthew 5:21-22?
  2. Reading between the lines, who probably had a real justification to be angry?
- iii. Anger is an emotion, so we can only control how we respond to it. What could Saul have done that might have helped him control his anger (see Philippians 4:8)? What lessons can we learn from Saul's behavior that apply to our lives?

*e. Thursday:*

- i. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-16 and these verses about fear: Psalm 3:6, 23:4, 27:1-5, 34:4-9, 55:4-5 & 111:10, Proverbs 1:7, 14:2, & 29:25, Matthew 10:28-33, John 14:27, Romans 8:15, 2 Timothy 1:6-7, & 1 John 4:18.
- ii. Since fear is a God given response to danger, who had a real reason to be afraid in the focal passage? What do the passages from the Psalms show us about how David's response to fear differed from Saul's?
- iii. Instead of fearing David, of whom/what should Saul have been afraid (Matthew 10:28)? Although we will never be in Saul's position, what lesson can we learn from these passages as we face fears living our lives as Christians in an

increasingly hostile society? According to Jesus in Matthew 10:28-33, why can we move forward in confidence?

- iv. What insight do we gain about Saul's fear of David from 2 Timothy 1:6-7? How should that passage help us?

f. **Friday:**

- i. Read 1 Samuel 18:10-14, Genesis 50:20, Judges 9:22-24, 1 Kings 22:19-23, Ezra 8:22, Isaiah 38:17, Jeremiah 29:11, and Romans 8:28.
- ii. We must never think that God does evil, is responsible for evil, or tempts us to sin. Nonetheless, the Bible regularly shows that in His Sovereignty, God does use evil to punish and to accomplish His goals. Saul had been rejected as king by God (1 Samuel 15:23), and Saul is now in rebellion against God and God's chosen successor to be king.
  - 1. How do Romans 1:28-29 relate to the situation Saul is in?
  - 2. What about Romans 8:28? In the focal passage, who is called? Who is not?
  - 3. God doesn't just use evil to punish the wicked, as David was to experience later in his life (see 2 Samuel 12:9-14). Read Psalm 51 to see the difference in how David responded to his punishment from the way Saul is responding. What lesson does verse 11 show that David had learned from his experiences in the focal passage?
- iii. The events in this week's focal passage start David on a decade of fleeing from Saul. How do you see God using this for David's good? Does He still do such things in our lives?
- iv. What is the most remarkable example of God using evil to accomplish His purposes?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-16 once more.
- ii. Even though David was chosen as "a man after God's heart" to be the next king, he faces life-threatening opposition from Saul. How does this compare to our lives as Christians (see Luke 21:12-19; also, Matthew 5:10-12, Mark 13:9-13, John 15:18-20, and 2 Timothy 3:12)? What assurances do Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6 offer us that are far better than kingship?

5. **Application:**

- a. Saul's troubles started when God withdrew His Spirit. David succeeded because the Spirit was on him. As Christians, we have the Spirit within us, but do we always listen to Him? Obey Him? We should never underestimate the importance of His presence in our lives.
- b. God created us with emotions, but if we do not guard them carefully, some emotions (jealousy, anger, fear) can easily put us on a slippery slope leading inevitably to sin. We need to recognize where such weaknesses exist in our lives and pray for the Spirit's strength to overcome. When we do sin, and we all will, we need to follow David's example and immediately repent, seeking forgiveness and a renewed relationship with God (1 John 1:9).