



“God Is With Him”

1 Samuel 18:6-16

Sermon Verses:

12th – Saul was afraid of David because “the Lord was with David” but left Saul.

14th – In everything David did he had great success because “the Lord was with him.”

This morning’s sermon is one filled with the most intense emotions known to humanity. Emotions govern how we behave and dictate our success or failure in life. This ancient narrative could easily be adapted to the drama, which is unfolding before the world in 2008.

This story tells about David’s rise to power, on one hand, and Saul’s decline, on the other hand. There are three elements for David’s becoming the king. First, David is surrounded by and gifted with LOVE. Six times in this chapter we are told that David is loved (1, 2, 5, 16, 22, 28). Love seems to come to him as gift and destroyer. Second, the love David receives is coupled with the success he achieves. Four times in the chapter we are told that David is successful: as a warrior (v 5); in all his undertakings (v 14); in the eyes of Saul (v15); and in his fame (v 30). David’s success comes primarily in accomplishing what Saul was anointed and commissioned to do: to bring deliverance from the Philistines. Finally, the third element for a positive portrait of David is that not only was he loved and successful, “The Lord is with him.” That fact is shared in verses 12 and 14 of 1 Samuel 18.

When God is with you who can succeed against you? God is with David in this narrative and had chosen David to rule Israel in the future. What God has or has set aside for you no one nor any set of circumstances can deny you achieving or receiving.

We will learn from these few verses how the human emotions of fear, anger, and jealousy can cost you your blessings from God. Saul allowed these three emotions to cloud his perspective and love for David. His fear of David’s success caused him to attempt to destroy David and his career. God, because of Saul’s behavior, removed himself from Saul and an evil spirit came upon him. Saul became self-serving and eventually uses evil responses to David’s success. What Saul meant for bad, God turned into good.

There is a simple, yet complex, lesson for you and me to learn from this story. Do not let anger, fear and jealousy destroy your relationship with God. Do not let another person’s successes make you feel that you are a failure. When others are being blessed, join with them in thanking God rather than questioning God about your worthiness to receive gifts from Him. It is important to remember that, as in David’s secret to success, GOD IS WITH YOU. God has never, nor will He ever abandon you. He is sovereign and never sleeps nor slumbers and only desires the best for you (John 10:10).

Do not let ignorance or fear consume you so much that God can no longer dwell in you and give you the desires of your heart. Ask God right now to remove all fear, doubt, anger, and jealousy from you to prevent you from lashing out, wrongly, against someone you love. Ask God, as Paul told Timothy, to give you the spirit of POWER, of LOVE and of SELF-DISCIPLINE (II Timothy 1:7). GOD IS WITH YOU—TOO!!

Pastor Gerald L. Durley