

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

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Soaring Higher Christian Center
287 Cincinnati Avenue
Xenia, OH

Harvest Club Edition

1 Samuel 13:13-18

Saul, the King of Israel has acted foolishly. Disobeyed God. Are living in defeat and captivity in their own land.

Opens the door for oppression. Spiritual comparisons.

The Philistines (Flesh and self) develop a garrison (military post) or a stronghold in Michmash. (Treasured.)

They had 30,000 chariots, 6000 horsemen and an army as the sands of the seashore. (Innumerable) vs. 13:5

Israel's army numbered 600 men. 14:2 Originally 3000.

Three bands of spoilers (Raiders) are sent to oppress;

- The weak. Ophrah (Female fawn.)
- Those without substance or character. Bethhoron (House of hollowness.)
- The decadent. Zeboim (Gazelles.) A town destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah.

Israel is living in fear, oppression and defeat. Are dispossessed of their treasure. (Michmash.)

They are unprepared. No one has a sword but Saul and Jonathan. vs. 19-22

The Philistines have taken away the metalsmiths and they even had to go to the Philistines to sharpen their farm tools. 13:20 The enemy wants to disarm you. The Sword (Word of God.) Ignorance, religiosity and error.

They are in hiding, scattered and some have joined the enemy.

God uses Jonathan for the deliverance. 14:1-23 Jonathan; the gift of God.

We're saved by grace, gift of God. Eph. 2:8

I. Realize The Unlimited Strength And Power of God.

Rom. 8:31 *...If God be for us, who can be against us?*

A. Let acknowledgment become revelation. 14:1, 4, 6

1. Revelation will become faith.

a. Rom. 8:31 *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

[1.] God is not limited by human potential. vs. 14:6

b. They acted. vs. 11-13

[1.] Faith always acts.

2. Faith puts Jonathan and his companion between a rock and a hard place. 14:4

a. Faith will require you to go places your ordinarily wouldn't go and do things that you wouldn't ordinarily do.

1Pet. 1:7 *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

[1.] Bozez. (Shining.)

[2.] Seneh. (Sharp and prickly.)

- b. Allow the Word of God to transform you.
 Rom. 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
 Eph. 6:17 *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

II. Find Someone To Stand With You.

- A. There's power in agreement.
 Mt. 18:19 *Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*
 1-10,000 factor.
 Deut. 32:30 *How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight,...*
 - 1. The nameless armor bearer joins his faith and allegiance with Jonathan. vs. 14:7
- B. Be discriminate with whom you trust.
 Prov. 29:11 *A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.*
 - 1. Get behind a good man and push him, and when he gets to the top you won't be far behind him.
 - 2. Jonathan and David loved each other as themselves.
 - a. You'll rise or fall to the level of your associations.
 1Cor. 15:33 *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*
 - b. Jonathan had learned and been inspired of his friend David.
 [1.] Saul was his earthly father but David was his spiritual father.
 1Cor. 4:15 *For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers:*
 - 2. Be someone who can be trusted yourself.
 - a. Sowing and reaping.
 - 3. You and God are a majority.
- C. Their first attack kills about 20 men. vs. 14
 - 1. Their faith gets God involved. vs. 15
 - a. Garrison trembles.
 - b. Spoilers tremble away from the scene.
 - c. Start killing each other. vs. 20

III. Success Draws A Crowd.

Every victory in your life equals success.

- A. People are watching you. vs. 16
 - 1. Watching your response to adversity.
 - 2. Watching your progress.
 - 3. Watching for consistency, sometimes without even realizing it.
 - a. Inconsistency will be perceived as hypocrisy.
- B. Everyone loves a winner.
 - 1. They want to identify with them. Are inspired.
 - 2. They wait to see the outcome. vs. 19-20
 - a. Jumped in and participated when victory was inevitable.
 - b. Results always get attention.

3. Those who have sided with their enemies. vs. 21
 - a. The prodigals.
 - b. Double minded.
 - c. Those easily swayed.
4. Those who need direction. vs. 22
 - a. The fearful who were in hiding.
 - b. Need your example of faith.
 - [1.] Were converted from fear to faith.

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