

AFTER GOD'S HEART

A STUDY IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

After God's Heart Part 4—Setting Down the Spear

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[1 Samuel 18:6-12, MSG]

6-9 As they returned home, after David had killed the Philistine, the women poured out of all the villages of Israel singing and dancing, welcoming King Saul with tambourines, festive songs, and lutes. In playful frolic the women sang, Saul kills by the thousand, David by the ten thousand!

This made Saul angry—very angry. He took it as a personal insult. He said, “They credit David with ‘ten thousands’ and me with only ‘thousands.’ Before you know it, they’ll be giving him the kingdom!” From that moment on, Saul kept his eye on David. The next day an ugly mood was sent by God to afflict Saul, who became quite beside himself, raving. David played his harp, as he usually did at such times. Saul had a spear in his hand. Suddenly Saul threw the spear, thinking, “I’ll nail David to the wall.”

(But Saul missed, and David did what any courageous warrior would do. He picked up the spear and in a righteous act of justice, he hurled the spear across the room with expert precision. It found its target, piercing Saul's heart and rendering the maniac king lifeless. The nation rejoiced and declared David to be king. He sat on his rightful throne from which he ruled the nation. His spear was always in hand.)

David ducked, and the spear missed. This happened twice. Now Saul feared David. It was clear that God was with David and had left Saul.”

What comes out of you in a moment, you often cannot control; it is a product of what has been built up on the inside.

Pattern of the Passage: HEARD—SAID—SAW—HELD

Typically, whatever you're holding onto will one day be weaponized. Letting go is not minimizing the hurt and the pain of that situation; letting go is fully surrendering to God.

THREE THINGS DAVID UNDERSTOOD

- 1. He had a word from God.**
- 2. He was led by the Spirit.**
- 3. He knew that spears do not win battles.**
- 4. He understood where his authority came from.**

If you're sitting on a throne you've established, you will defend that at all cost.

If you find yourself in a situation where someone is throwing a spear at you, a practical response is to duck and walk away. Don't respond in the moment; give yourself time to cool down and then come around.

No warrior trains in the middle of the battle. He trains before the battle, so that when he's in the moment, he has the muscle memory.

True justice only comes from one Source, and that is God.

If God has called you, He will establish you.

[John 19:9-11]

9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

Usually, the power people have over us is the authority we have given them.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Evaluate what you're investing in that's temporary and that which is eternal.
2. Consider whether you've gotten a word from God, and if none have been recent, go after one through prayer and worship.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Where have you witnessed things built up on an outward appearance versus the heart? How does the heart impact how we hear something?
2. When have you, or someone you've known, had a distorted view based upon what was going on in the heart?
3. What were the two kingdoms represented by Saul and David? What were they built upon, and how were they different?
4. What do you do when a spear is thrown at you? [1 Samuel 18:6-12] What are some examples of "spears" hurled your way? What are some quick responses that have come out of you that you couldn't control?
5. What's in your hand? What are you holding onto? What steps do you need to take to release it and pursue God's heart?
6. What time and process do you need to go through in the season ahead? What, if any, are your apprehensions?
7. Whose word do you trust? Does God have a word for you? How often do you invite the Word of God into your everyday? As a Christ-follower, why is this crucial?
8. What does it look like to be led by the Spirit in difficult situations? Where does it start?
9. Why do we hold onto "spear?" How have you been wounded by "spears?"
10. How do we truly win battles? Why do "spears" not win battles? Where does the authority come from?