



## Part 18 - "Responding to what God is Doing" | 1 Samuel 18 | 3.29.26

### → Seeing Through God's Perspective — 1 Samuel 16–18

- Chapter 16 — The LORD sees differently (16:7)
- Chapter 17 — David sees differently (17:47)
- Chapter 18 — Others must decide how they will see

### → Jonathan's Humble Response to God's Work — 1 Samuel 18:1–4

- (18:1) Jonathan loved David as himself — loyal covenant love, not romantic love
- (18:3–4) Jonathan gave his royal garments — symbols of his right to the throne
- Jonathan surrendered his birthright when he saw that the LORD was with David
- **True humility aligns with what God is doing, even when it costs us something**

### → Saul's Fearful Resistance to God's Work — 1 Samuel 18:5–25

- Saul realized the LORD was with David, but responded with fear and jealousy
- (18:10) "came forcefully" (Hebrew *tislah*) means "to rush upon"
  - overwhelming spiritual influence
  - the Spirit of the LORD rushed (*tislah*) upon Saul earlier (1 Samuel 10–11)
- The spiritual influence amplified what was already in Saul's heart
- (18:12) the LORD was with David but had departed from Saul
- Saul attempted to manipulate circumstances through marriage and battle strategies

### → Recognizing vs Realizing God's Work

- *Recognizing* = seeing in light of what we already know about God's character
- *Realizing* = seeing in a way we haven't before because it affects us personally
- Jonathan recognized God's work because he trusted God's character
- Saul only acknowledged God's work when he felt threatened
- Both men saw the same reality but responded very differently
- Our response reveals what we believe about God

### → Love Participates Where Fear Resists — 1 John 4:16–19

- Fear and love move us in opposite directions
- God often uses His people in small, ordinary ways
- We're invited to participate in what God is already doing

### → Palm Sunday — Responding to the King — Luke 19:41-44

- People responded very differently when Jesus entered Jerusalem
- Some welcomed Him as King, others felt threatened by Him
- Many realized Jesus was important but did not recognize who He truly was
- Jesus did not come to take power but to give His life for our salvation
- Eternal life begins at the moment of belief, not only after death
- **Part of our purpose is participating in God's will now**

### → Main Takeaway:

God invites us to participate in what He is already doing. Not in fear, but in love.

### → Going Deeper:

1. Read 1 Samuel 18:1–4  
What does Jonathan's response teach us about humility and trust in God's plan?
2. Read 1 Samuel 18:12 and 1 John 4:18  
How can fear keep us from participating in what God is doing?
3. Read 1 John 4:19  
How does remembering God's love help us release control and trust Him?

→ **Next Step: Where might fear be keeping you from trusting what God is doing in your life right now?**