



**January 19, 2025**

## **What is God's Response to His Provision**

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 18:6-30

**Big Idea:** How is your Soul?

**The Challenge:** Jealousy is a part of the broken human experience. Whether it is power, prestige, or money, unchecked, it festers in the human soul. Rooted in a feeling of insecurity, it manifests into a pathway of self-destruction as the soul eats itself alive. Left unchecked, it will continue to manifest and eventually turn one into a beast of madness. And though jarring, none of us can escape its temptation. Each of us is prone to it at some degree or another. And yet, it does not have to be this way. Through a life lived in Jesus, we can be made whole and complete. In recognizing His blessing in our lives and acknowledging His purpose and his provision, we are

**Pastoral Prayer for this Message:** "Each of us is prone to looking at our neighbour. Help us to look to you. Help us to acknowledge your blessing in our lives. Your provision, your love, your sovereignty. Soften our hearts for your sake."

### **Life Group Objectives:**

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week's message and passage, or dig into the series you are going through as a group. We learn and grow together as a church when we all track together on the sermon series.
2. We desire that the Bible play a key role in your time together. Please have people open their Bibles, seek clarity, ask questions, share insights, and allow the Bible to guide them.
3. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?

### **Conversation starters:**

- When we think of the story of David, what do we see the role of Saul?
- In last week's sermon, we learned that Saul is a typology of the human condition. If Saul is a typology of us, and from what you know of Saul, what connections can you make between your own life and Saul's?
- Where do you get your value from?

### **Questions for Discussion:**

- 1) **The Backdrop (1 Samuel 15-17)** Through the narrative of Saul, we see a man who knew of God, but did not really know God. We see constant examples of his mediocre obedience to the commandments that God gave through Samuel. We see Saul, the king of Israel cowering in fear (1 Sam 17:11). Read 1 Samuel 15:
  - a. What do we notice about Saul's relationship with God?
  - b. What was the heart posture that we see in the life of Saul?
  - c. What was God's response to Saul?

- 2) **The Human Condition (v6-9)** As the old Hymn goes, the human condition is one 'prone wonder, prone to flee the God I love...'. Even Paul talks about the fact that what I do, I do not want to do (Rom 7:15). We see evidence of this in Saul's own life, a heart that had wandered from God.
- a. Was the fear that Saul felt in 1 Samuel 17:11 justified? How do we compare this to David's response?
  - b. Where are the areas of your life that you "do" that which you don't want to do?
  - c. What keeps us from wandering?
- 3) **Left to Our Own Devices (v10-12)** – When our hearts turn away from God, we force him out of our lives. We remove any warm welcome to the Spirit to the point where he does exactly what our hearts desire – to be left alone.
- a. Where in scripture have you seen this happen in the lives of others?
  - b. What do you notice about their behavior toward God and others?
  - c. A hard question: How have you seen this in your own life?
- 4) **A Downward Spiral (V13-29)** Kept unchecked, wandering eventually leads to irrational, erratic, and frantic reactions. This has real implications for our lives as our soul continues to eat itself alive. Review the passage and see how Saul's actions demonstrated this frantic behaviour.
- a. Review and discuss. What do you notice?
  - b. Reflecting on your own life what comes to mind?
- 5) **...there is Hope! (v30)** – It doesn't have to be this way. God desires that we live a whole and complete life, one marked by vulnerability and transparency. As we examine the life of David, we see a life of humility that God blesses. Richard Rohr states that God calls us into a life with "Nothing to prove, nothing to protect." The life of Saul continues on a trajectory of destruction until the end of his time. In contrast, although David arguably made bigger mistakes, his life was well lived.
- a. What is the contrast between these two lives?
  - b. What are the blessings of a life that is marked with humility?
  - c. What does it look like to live a life of humility, a life with nothing to prove and nothing to protect?
  - d. What does it mean to end well?