

Series: Shepherd, Poet, Fugitive, King - The Life of David  
1 Samuel 19:1-24 – God’s Anointed Pursued and Protected / Ryan Patty / 12.31.23

Scripture Reading: **Psalm 59:16-17 (CSB)**

Well friends, it’s the last day of the year. If you didn’t get that thing done yet... you’re probably not going to this year... just being real with ya. How did the year measure up? Did you get everything done you hoped to? Lose that nagging bit of a few pounds we all just added to this week? Get the promotion? Get the new job? Get the girlfriend? Get the ring? At the start of a new year we often have so many goals or resolutions. *I will change this, this will be better this year.*

And sometimes that’s true, and sometimes it’s not. I’ll come back to this new year at the end of the sermon, but when we left chapter 18 a couple weeks back, you could almost envision it as a year ending and a new one beginning. Saul and David worked through their issues, David even married Michal, Saul’s daughter, surely things are looking up right? Well, not so fast. It will be more of what we have seen from Saul, only ramped up.

Before we jump into chapter 19, let me remind you briefly of what is important to remember. All of what is taking place here is under the providence of God. He is working out all of these events for his intended purposes. And God has sovereignly chosen to remove the kingship from Saul and to give it to David. Saul failed to obey God, to listen to him, and as such is judged by God. And as we will see, because Saul did not obediently fight God’s enemies, he will have no peace at home. So while Saul still has the kingship, David is the anointed King. He will be king. In fact, if you’re taking notes this morning, that is the main point that we will see undergirding this entire chapter.

MP: **God’s Anointed will be King**

All of what we will see this morning is reenforcing that truth. God’s anointed will be king.

But the tension here in this chapter, and with so much of Scripture, is that there are two wills in conflict. Saul here is seeking to make his will come to pass. He wants David out of the picture, and He is working towards that end. And ultimately, doing some typology here, what does Saul represent? He represents the schemes of Satan and the wicked who hate the things of God; this too will be discussed later. And who does Saul and his will find himself pitted against? Well he thinks its David. He thinks he just has to outsmart and outfox another man. But as we will see, he's pitted himself against God. And God's will is not to be thwarted. What he wills, will take place. So if you haven't yet go ahead and turn to 1 Samuel 19 this morning as we seek to understand what God through His Word has to teach us.

*Pray*

3 scenes of deliverance this morning. And the first is this:

### 1. Protected by Jonathan

Let's begin reading in v. 1 (chapter 19). As we left the end of chapter 18, David's success is rapidly spreading. Verse 30 of chapter 18 says that "every time the Philistine commanders came out to fight, David was more successful than all of Saul's officers. So his name became well known." And now we jump into chapter 19.

Saul ordered his son Jonathan and all his servants to kill David. But Saul's son Jonathan liked David very much, 2 so he told him, "My father, Saul, intends to kill you. Be on your guard in the morning and hide in a secret place and stay there. 3 I'll go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are and talk to him about you. When I see what he says, I'll tell you."

4 Jonathan spoke well of David to his father, Saul. He said to him, "The king should not sin against his servant David. He hasn't sinned against you; in fact, his actions have been a great advantage to you. 5 He took his life in his hands when he struck down the Philistine, and the Lord brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced, so why would you sin against innocent blood by killing David for no reason?"

6 Saul listened to Jonathan's advice and swore an oath: "As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be killed." 7 So Jonathan summoned David and told him all these words. Then Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he served him as he did before.

“Saul has killed his thousands,” the woman sang, “but David his tens of thousands!” And now it has only grown. Because of God’s blessing and God’s Spirit David is truly the golden child of the nation. He has success wherever he goes. He leads Israel’s troops and they have victory. And this victory is like none other. For so long the Philistines had been terrorizing Israel, had been constantly at war with them and constantly defeating them. And now God’s servant and anointed king is providing deliverance. And what should Saul as king be doing? He should be rejoicing! He should be overwhelmed with satisfaction that their borders are secure, they are routing their enemies, that they for once are the victors.

But he can’t. He can’t rejoice. His sinful heart is rebellious towards God, jealous towards David, and murderous in its intent. Such that the author of 1 Samuel says at the end of chapter 18 that David’s name is well known and the very next sentence we read “Saul ordered his son Jonathan and all his servants to kill David.” Not again Saul. Not this vindictiveness again! But before we move on, let us not act like we can’t be like Saul here for a moment?

Sure we don’t throw spears, hopefully. Plan murders. But we can water those seeds of jealousy in our hearts, can’t we? We can allow that root of bitterness to just push down a little deeper into the soil of our hearts and neglect that Spirit’s pruning. We see other families with the “perfect kids” or the “perfect marriage” and we start to get a bit jealous. We work with someone and all the work they do is top notch and only gets praise from the boss, we can succumb to thinking ill of them a bit, can’t we? Moms, we can look at other moms that seem to have it all together and have a bit of those moments right?

Our hearts are sinful friends. We often want the praise, the recognition, and like Saul here, when another gets it, it afflicts us and can so easily cause us to sin. Know where you are prone to that. Rest in Christ, look to His Word, pray, seek accountability. We all need to.

But Jonathan is the point here. Saul has this secret meeting with his leaders and they want to kill David. And although the covenant of brotherhood and friendship is coming next chapter, Jonathan has a dilemma does he not? His father is asking him to do something, and that might be a small part of it, but who is Jonathan? Saul’s son and the heir to the throne! Many I’m sure throughout Israel by now knew about the second anointing of a new king, of

David, the runt of the litter who was tending the sheep. Many can see the signs. They know what's eventually coming. And I'm sure that Jonathan is the same way here.

And most would want to protect themselves, they would want to be the next king. There is a temptation here for Jonathan. It reminds us of Peter the night before the crucifixion. A little servant girl questions him and he cowers, he denies His King. And here Jonathan could deny God's King the same, but he doesn't. He acts righteously and warns David and they come up with a method of letting David know if Saul is still out to get him or if he can come back into his presence.

And then notice Jonathan's advice and counsel to his Father. It is true that there are wicked fathers in this world. Fatherlessness is a real thing, absentee fathers are a real thing, and the church has a role in addressing those issues. But unfortunately wicked and unwise fathers are a real thing too. And notice this son's counsel to his own father. – 4 Jonathan spoke well of David to his father, Saul. He said to him, "The king should not sin against his servant David. He hasn't sinned against you; in fact, his actions have been a great advantage to you. 5 He took his life in his hands when he struck down the Philistine, and the Lord brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced, so why would you sin against innocent blood by killing David for no reason?"

What does Jonathan counsel his father with? God's Word. He's referencing the 6th commandment, he's referencing Deuteronomy 19 and the taking of an innocent life. His father is planning murder. David is innocent in his actions concerning the king, he has done nothing wrong toward Saul. So Jonathan speaks wisely. There's something to learn here from Jonathan and how he treats his wicked father. He doesn't capitulate, he doesn't follow in his footsteps, he leans on God's Word and continues to show his father kindness.

And Christian fathers, if it hasn't happened yet, there will come a time when these seeds you have been planting take root. And the things of God that you have been teaching your sons and daughters they teach back to you. When they notice an area of sin, or how you spoke harshly to mom, or just an area where our actions don't match up with what we have been saying. And in God's sanctifying providence they bring it up to you. (now I admit they don't always do it in the best time, my son prefers to do this when there are multiple people around...) Nonetheless they like Jonathan bring up something to you. How do you respond? How do you respond when called out? Your

response in that moment teaches them as much as your words did previously. May we listen to all forms of God's discipline and correction, even when it comes from the mouths of our children...

And verse 6 is astounding based off what we know about Saul. He's rash, he's not the sharpest tool all the times, and he's planning murder. And yet, Saul listened to the counsel of his son and swore an oath (which will come to mean nothing) but still, let's appreciate verse 6 while we can. So David comes back and is in the presence of Saul for a period of time. Jonathan has delivered David. He protects him.

## 2. Protected by Michal

As war comes and David defeats the Philistines, Saul's anger towards him grows again. Look with me at verse 8.

8 When war broke out again, David went out and fought against the Philistines. He defeated them with such great force that they fled from him.

9 Now an evil spirit sent from the Lord came on Saul as he was sitting in his palace holding a spear. David was playing the lyre, 10 and Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear. As the spear struck the wall, David eluded Saul, ran away, and escaped that night. 11 Saul sent agents to David's house to watch for him and kill him in the morning. But his wife Michal warned David, "If you don't escape tonight, you will be dead tomorrow!" 12 So she lowered David from the window, and he fled and escaped. 13 Then Michal took the household idol and put it on the bed, placed some goat hair on its head, and covered it with a garment. 14 When Saul sent agents to seize David, Michal said, "He's sick."

15 Saul sent the agents back to see David and said, "Bring him on his bed so I can kill him." 16 When the agents arrived, to their surprise, the household idol was on the bed with some goat hair on its head.

17 Saul asked Michal, "Why did you deceive me like this? You sent my enemy away, and he has escaped!" She answered him, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?'"

18 So David fled and escaped and went to Samuel at Ramah and told him everything Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel left and stayed at Naioth.

Scene two of Saul seeking to attack David comes now through another family member. After Jonathan dissuaded him, Saul seeks now to turn to the daughter given in marriage to him. Few things to note here concerning spirits and spears. We have seen an evil spirit sent from the Lord before so I'm not going to discuss that again. You can listen

to the sermon on chapter 16.. I simply want to say that God is sovereign over all that's seen and not seen, and here this evil spirit is to do as God directs. And as this spirit comes, Saul again has a spear in hand. One can almost imagine him as a paranoid ruler, always with a weapon in hand and this affliction that is brought about from this spirit only increases it. Such that we have a similar scene to what happened in chapter 18 happening here again! He throws the spear at David again! He's crazy.

David rushes home, but even Michal knows about her father and convinces David to escape. Like the spies being lowered out of the window in Jericho so the same happens to David here. And then what does Michal do? She plays the old trick of someone asleep in the bed. We have done this as kids right? Maybe hiding under the bed and having pillows in our bed to see if we can convince mom or dad? Well she does it, but with a household idol... and she puts some goat hair on it and then proceeds to say that he's gone. And when questioned by her father she sides with her husband and lies, saying that he threatened her. So let me just discuss this idol and the lie briefly.

We know by now that the Bible doesn't sugarcoat things, and it doesn't condone everything it records for us. Warts and all, sin and sorrow, if God intends for it to be in there, it's in there. And so clearly we should be surprised that the anointed king of Israel allows a household idol in the house. Could this have come from Michal and she brought it into the marriage? Sure. But David is the leader and could have thrown it out. But here, it's not in the context of worship, but merely the act of deceiving her father. And so I don't want to go further than Scripture, but we don't know all the details. But they have an idol and clearly don't think much of it to be able to use it as a fake person.

Second. Michal clearly lies, doesn't she? Verse 17 - 17 Saul asked Michal, "Why did you deceive me like this? You sent my enemy away, and he has escaped!" She answered him, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?'"

Now Saul probably doesn't believe this lie, but there is not much he can do. David is gone, and Michal is his own daughter. But she lies. She lies to protect her husband and deceive her father. What do we do with this? Well Christ Community, we walked through a lot of difficult texts this year. All through Judges, and much of 1 Samuel has had its difficulties as well. And so here is the point and what I'm getting at in discussing this lie. Life is messy. It's messy. Life in a fallen world is messy. And so we don't succumb to despair but we are real about how life is. And as

we look forward to a new year starting tomorrow, we do so with eyes wide open. We recognize the immense blessings that God has given us, the beauty we can recognize, the acts of generosity and love and sacrifice that define our Christian community. But we do so while recognizing that heart-ache, the deaths that will come, the cancer diagnosis that shocks us, the loss of a loved one.

And so we realize that life in this world, this side of the new Jerusalem, is hard and messy. I'm trying to teach my kids this as well; there is a certain age where I don't sugar coat the answer but I, as appropriate, start to allow them to see more and more of the effects of sin in this world. And in the midst of that I hope to point them back to God and His ways more and more. But I don't want my kids surprised by the things of this world, I want them innocent to evil yes, in the sense of innocent of committing evil, but I want them to be strong believers who recognize that this world is not how its supposed to be and we need to be busy fulfilling the commission our Lord has given us.

So Michal lies. Her motivations are good. In the face of sinful anger and injustice, she wants to protect her husband. And so Michal really isn't the issue here, her lie is not what the text is emphasizing or stressing. It's Saul. It's that Saul is wicked and angry and manipulating. He wants the men to bring David lying sick in the bed to kill him. What kind of king is this?!

**Thomas Aquinas was a Christian monk from the middle ages who differentiated between types of lies.** Lies of maliciousness, just straight lies that are wicked. Lies in jest, where it is clearly a joke. And lies of necessity, only morally justifiable in very rare circumstances, such as innocent lives being at stake. Clearly we know which one Michal's fell into. But this is what I want us to wrestle with a little this morning, is how this lie fits into our understanding of God and His Word. Was her lie a sin? Yes. Did God still use it? Yes. We can think back to the Israelite midwives who delivered the children even though Pharaoh had told them not to. We can think back to Rahab who lied about the spies, and then later on in Hebrews she is commended for her faith. Not her lie, but her faith.

What about those lying to the Germans to protect the Jews? How should we think of this? Some of you have maybe read the *Hiding Place*, by Corrie ten Boon. In it, this devout Christian family hides Jews, and has to struggle with

whether to lie or not. Corrie would do it to save Jews. She tells how the first time she lied to a German's face about it she thought she would be struck down by God right away! Nollie, her sister, had resolved from a young age to never lie. You'll have to read the book to see how these two things played out.. But there is something for us to think about.. What would you do? Maybe discuss that with your family today at lunch... is it ever okay to lie?

But Saul's attack on David is nonstop. And notice in these chapters that it is only the good things that David has done that arouses Saul's hatred and anger. Peter tells us that it is the same for Christians. They will slander us as evil-doers.. David has done nothing wrong towards Saul, yet he hates him all the same. In many ways it is the same for us today... Yet God's Word is always timely, and Peter tells his readers that although they are sojourners and strangers, they should live as the people of God. He can say in verse 15 – For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. David is attacked for doing good, and we will be too. Let us look to God for our strength and never rely on our own.

Michal protects David. He flees from that town and comes to Samuel. Let's pick up reading in verse 19.

19 When it was reported to Saul that David was at Naioth in Ramah, 20 he sent agents to seize David. However, when they saw the group of prophets prophesying with Samuel leading them, the Spirit of God came on Saul's agents, and they also started prophesying. 21 When they reported to Saul, he sent other agents, and they also began prophesying. So Saul tried again and sent a third group of agents, and even they began prophesying. 22 Then Saul himself went to Ramah. He came to the large cistern at Secu and asked, "Where are Samuel and David?"

"At Naioth in Ramah," someone said.

23 So he went to Naioth in Ramah. The Spirit of God also came on him, and as he walked along, he prophesied until he entered Naioth in Ramah. 24 Saul then removed his clothes and also prophesied before Samuel; he collapsed and lay naked all that day and all that night. That is why they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"



We have seen protection come from Jonathan, and then Michal. And now you might be thinking, Samuel? He goes to the prophet right away. But no, this protection, and really all of the protection comes from God. Point number 3

### 3. Protected by God

More irony and more humor. More selfishness and sin. Saul just won't stop. And God is going to teach him a lesson here. Let's walk through these verses.

David flees to Ramah and tells Samuel what is happening. And at this point in the story it's like the ending of a movie. Saul tried using his son, tried using his daughter, he sends his secret assassins to capture or kill David and everything has failed. Remember our two wills from earlier (man's will vs. God's will)? So he sends agents and they end up prophesying. He sends more and they do the same. Everything has failed and now Saul himself will go. So he goes.. When others can't get the job done you just gotta do it yourself, right? And he goes. And notice in verse 23, he arrives in Ramah and the Spirit of God also comes upon him as well.

Rather than anything to do with Samuel, it was the Spirit of God that made the previous agents of Saul prophesy, and here it is the Spirit of God making Saul prophesy. Such that Saul ends up laying naked all day and night. And here's the point the writer is making: the kingly robe is off. He's naked on the ground. Such that people can ask, is Saul among the prophets? What's the point then? That question underscores that he is no longer king in any true sense. He is stripped of his kingly robe, and people aren't questioning if he is a king, but a prophet. The blessing of God to be king is on another. And even more Saul's nakedness brings embarrassment. The King of the nation finds himself naked and prostrating on the ground because he pitted himself against God.

And even more, what's Saul learning here? God will not be mocked, a man reaps what he sows. If you seek to go against the Lord's anointed then you will find yourself under the punishing hand of God. You cannot raise your hand against the Lord's anointed without his permission. His anointed will be king no matter what. Saul can plot in vain, yet God will not be swayed. In this chapter we see 3 deliverances for David, 2 wills at war, and one true king that is coming. And friends, I would be remiss if I didn't point out how this points forward to Christ our King. When I have been talking about these two wills, this reality has gone nowhere and is still present today.

You have God's Kingdom going forward, God's will being done, and you have sin going forth and Satan and those who deny Christ seeking to go against all that God says and wills. Men and women today who both consciously and unconsciously hate God and want nothing of His say or reign in their lives. And although we know the end, we see the coming triumph that Revelation outlines for us, the reality is that we are in a war. The war that began in the garden and is still being fought today. And so what we see in chapter 19 of the will of man vs the will of God is just a microcosm of what is happening today. Those against God continue to rebel, while those of us following him continue to see his Kingdom and Church go forth. It is as **Psalm 2:1-6** says:

1 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and his Anointed One:

3 "Let's tear off their chains and throw their ropes off of us."

4 The one enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord ridicules them.

5 Then he speaks to them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath:

6 "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain."

They plot against, conspire against his anointed one. This was true of Saul, it was true of the Pharisees and Jewish leaders in Jesus' time, it's true of every antiChrist that has come, and today it is true of all those who are not submitting to the Lord Jesus Christ. And yet verse 4 – the one enthroned in heaven laughs and ridicules them. Heaven laughs at the futility of these people! That's the sovereign God we serve. Saul found this out as he thought he could go against God's anointed one and those against him today will find out on the day of judgment.

God protects David as his anointed King. We know that there is more coming in this David and Saul saga, but let me offer just three quick points of application on this last Sunday of 2023.

### 1. Rest in God's protection

It is clear that David was protected in various ways, ultimately by God, throughout chapter 19. You and I are not God's anointed one. That is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. But God does protect his people, he does preserve his church, and he does care for those who call upon His name. What does protect mean? It can't mean that no physical ailments or sufferings will come your way. We have faithful saints in here walking through such suffering.

We look to the Christian martyrs of the past as well who remained faithful to the end. In the world's eyes they weren't protected, but the Christian knows better. So no, physical protection is not promised, financial protection is not guaranteed, but for those united to Christ through God's Spirit, we are protected in that our eternal future is secure. Hard things will come. But we serve the God who is with us in the valley and the mountain top. I love what a Christian writer says about this topic: He states - "Sometimes the clearest evidence that God has not deserted you is not that you are successfully past your trial but that you are still on your feet in the middle of it." - Dale Ralph Davis. David went from trial to trial, didn't he? But he never doubted the goodness of God nor his protection of him. And friends, David's God is our God. We don't fear what might happen in 2024 or 2044. God's got us. This coming year rest in God's sovereign rule and protection over your life.

## 2. Submit to God's will

In this battle of two wills, Saul wants his will to be done and not the Lord's. Is that true of areas in your life? Are you holding onto something so tightly that you simply can't let go? And the Holy Spirit has been gently prodding you, convicting you, and yet you don't want to give it up? Submit to God's will in all of your life not just some of it. Further I realize everyone in the church will struggle with the question at some point or another, "what is God's will for my life? What do I need to be doing or pursuing?!" Listen, He gives us his word, he gives us his spirit, and he gives us his church. Don't isolate yourself from those things and lean on your own understanding. But for 2024, maybe **1 Thessalonians 5:14-18** should be our prayer in the coming year – **14 And we exhort you, brothers and sisters: warn those who are idle, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See to it that no one repays evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good for one another and for all. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray constantly, 18 give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.** In a fallen world where we can often feel lost or confused, meditate on this verse. This is God's will for you. Submit to Him.

## 3. Look to Your King

Although Saul knew the Kingship had been removed from him, he would still fight tooth and nail to not have it take place. He would fail to transfer the kingship well, he would fail to bow to the Lord's anointed, and he would fail to embrace the new king. Friends this side of the cross, we know who this King is. He is the Son of David, Jesus Christ, the King who calls on us to follow him, to love him, to submit to him. He is a king who enters into the mess

and dies on our behalf. A King that offers you and I good news of forgiveness and reconciliation. And rather than having to work for what he offers, he calls us to place our faith and trust in the work he accomplished. He alone is the one who can accomplish salvation. So look to this King, the king who is full of grace and love and mercy, But a king whose patience will not last forever. Look to him this coming year in all things, for life under his rule is greater than any life under our own.

### Pray

In a moment we will take communion as God's people. This is a time of remembrance and a time to marvel at God's grace towards us in Christ. But we do want to be clear. This is for those who have trusted in Christ, who are resting in him and are living under His rule as king. If that's not you, we ask that you let the communion elements pass you by and we would love to talk with you further about what it means to be a Christian (salvation, grace through faith) But think back upon this year of God's faithfulness towards you, his protection towards you, and his love towards you. Look to the cross, look to your king.