

BRING IT ON

A NEW YEAR SERMON SERIES

WINNING ADVANTAGE (Week 5)

WELCOME: What lesson in this series has been most helpful in your life so far?

WORSHIP: Sing “WHOM SHALL I FEAR” by Chris Tomlin/Passion Worship

WORD:

There will always be opposition.

After making Goliath fall, David, the teenager, restored the courage of Israel’s vast army—men who are older, smarter and more experienced at warfare than him. The emotions shifted—the fear that they used to have, became the fear the enemy soldiers now have to deal with. The Philistines felt intimidated. A boy just killed their champion. 1 Samuel 17:51-52 say, the Philistine army retreated and the Israelites ran after them. That was the kick-start of David to stardom, an instant celebrity—the boy who kept Israel from becoming slaves to the Philistines! But that was also the start of a more difficult journey for David. While the nation of Israel loved him, the king of Israel hated him. All of a sudden, instead of having just one enemy force to fight (Philistines), David gained an enemy at home, the most powerful man in his country.

- What was the obvious reason for Saul’s anger? Read 1 Samuel 18:6-10.
- On Sunday, Pastor quoted: “*Comparison is the death of contentment.*” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- In verses 1 Samuel 18:10-11, the spirit of hate took over King Saul and tried to kill David with a spear.
- Have you ever been so jealous and angry to the point of wishing someone was dead?
- In 1 Samuel 18:12, what was the real spiritual reason for Saul’s fear?
- Pastor said, “*The first emotion we feel when we’re out of God’s will is fear.*” Why do you think is this so?
- Saul’s promoted David to become commander, but that promotion was motivated by anger and envy. He wanted to put David’s life in great danger by sending him to the most difficult battles. But what was the result of all of David’s battles? Read 1 Samuel 18:5,14-16 & 31.
- Pastor said, “*David experienced a lot of victories because he faced a lot of battles.*” David won every battle he was sent to because He faced each of them with God on His side. Do you want to be like David (successful in everything he did)? The Bible says (verse 14), “David prospered in everything he did because the Lord was with him.”
- The secret to success: Proverbs 3:5-6.
- Saul wanted David to marry one of his daughters (Merab), but David refused. David knew that even though the offer was enticing, it wasn’t God’s will (1 Samuel 18:17-18). Are you on the right track to God’s destiny for you? Or, like Saul, are you making up your plans based on your circumstances to get what you want?
- What types of opposition are you facing right now? Are you able to distinguish which of these oppositions are sent by God to prevent you from a possible mishap?
- Pastor said, “There is no victory without opposition; no success without a struggle.” James 1:2-3 encourages us to consider it pure joy when we face trials (oppositions/struggle) of every kind. What is the reason James gives?

There will always be a friend that God sends your way.

There may be opposition, but God always sends a true friend to get you to your destiny. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4.

Jonathan, the son of Saul—the prince of Israel—was that type of friend to David. Most scholars agree that Jonathan was in his mid-30s while David was a teenager. Despite the gap in age they became close friends, verse 1 says, “There was an immediate bond” between them! Jonathan surrendered to David the very symbols of his authority as prince—he gave his political destiny up to be the next king of Israel. Even though Jonathan had no idea David was already anointed to be king, God worked in his heart that it became so easy for him to give up his right to rule. From that time on, Jonathan took David under his wings and mentored him in the life that God had destined David for! Jonathan did not only keep David from taking missteps, he also kept David safe from Saul’s plot and ploy to kill him; and acted as an advocate for David (read 1 Samuel 19:1-5).

- Do you have friends like Jonathan; friends who take you higher and not lower; friends who see and bring out the best in you and yet at the same time, not afraid to point out the wrong in you? Do you have a friend who prays for your success and helps you achieve it? Do you have a friend who strengthens your faith, and helps you with your doubt?
- If you don't have one, find one! If you can't find one, be one.
- God worked everything out to David's advantage, positioning him to succeed—using different situations and different people to accomplish His purpose for David. Recognize which people and circumstances are leading you toward success. Each of these is God's gifts to you.

From chapter 18 all the way to 26, David was hated and hunted by Saul. During this difficult part of David's life, he wrote a song, **Psalm 27**. In this song we will find the secret of David's winning advantage.

THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING ON THE WINNING SIDE. Verses 1-3.

David declares the fact that the Lord is his light and salvation, therefore he had no reason to be afraid. He knew that he was on the winning side; that he can depend on the Lord for guidance and salvation. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 8:31, *...If God is for us, who can be against us?* To be on the winning side means to have God in your life; to depend on the One who has won over death and the grave itself—Jesus is our victory (Romans 8:37)!

- Verbalize your concerns in prayer but always declare God's victory!

THE ADVANTAGE OF GOD'S PRESENCE. Verses 4-10.

You have the advantage of finding security in the presence of God. David valued and sought presence of God more than anything else—he knew the advantage that the presence of God brought.

- Gaze at the beauty of God, instead on the face of your enemy. Instead of focusing on the ugly face of the enemy, gaze upon the beauty of your God. As pastor said, *What you magnify you get more of.*
- Choose God's presence as a shelter when trouble comes.
- Choose to worship! Don't be pre-occupied by your enemies, declare His victory in worship!
- IN verse 10, David says that even closest family members have the tendency to abandon us, but God never will—*"the Lord will hold me close."* Hold on tight to your God because He holds you tightly.

THE ADVANTAGE OF ACCESS TO DIVINE WISDOM. Verses 11-13.

David knew the advantage of having access into the mind of God! The wisdom of God is accessible to us through the Word of God! Read Psalm 86:11. Access the wisdom and instruction of God at all times. Seek God's directives wholeheartedly because following His way always leads to experiencing His goodness—that's why David said in verse 13, "I remain confident in this that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Read James 1:5.

- The wiser you become in God, the more humble your heart becomes.
- At the height of Saul's hatred toward David, David had a couple of chances to kill Saul (1 Samuel 24:1-7) but he did not act on it. Regardless of how Saul behaved, David honored him (1 Samuel 24:8-9). What was David's reason in 1 Samuel 24:10? Are there people whom you've lost respect toward? What can we learn from David about how we should treat these people?
- David chooses to spare his Saul's life—understanding that fact, Saul wasn't really the enemy. David knew that Saul must be going through tough emotional stresses. Some of the people who hate or oppose us may be going through very difficult situations. Pastor said in one of his sermons, *We cannot control how people behave toward us, but we can control our behavior toward them.* In the end, each of us will be judged according to our action toward others (1 Samuel 24:12-13).
- What was Saul's reaction to David's action (1 Samuel 24:16-20)?
- David did not want to murder to get to his destiny. That's why in **Psalm 27:14** he said "Wait patiently."
- Pastor said, "Don't short-circuit your destiny by taking a short-cut."
- Waiting doesn't have to be boring! It involves an active expectation of something special—putting our anointing to use! While we wait, we follow God step by step—diligently, faithfully, excellently. **How are you putting your anointing to use?**
- GOD is doing things in your life that you do not want to rush! He is preparing you for your destiny—so don't get bored—put your anointing to use and wait with expectation while taking advantage of your winning advantage!

WORKS:

- PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER AND DECLARE OVER EACH PERSON THE ADVANTAGE WE HAVE IN CHRIST.