



Sermon Discussion Questions: August 3, 2025

Shielded by Sovereign Love

Melissa's Testimony

1. Melissa came into a saving relationship with Jesus while young. What are the benefits of being saved as:
 - a. A child?
 - b. An adult?
2. Melissa made a startling comment, that spiritual maturity leads to dependence, not independence. State whether you agree or disagree, and why.

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:1-6

3. "This psalm describes God's ongoing sovereign protection of his people from the ever-present dangers and terrors..." (John MacArthur)
 - a. Where do we read of this protection in 1st Samuel, Chapters 19 & 20?
 - b. Where have you seen this protection in your life?
 - c. How do you deal with events in which we do not see God's children protected?

Sermon: 1 Samuel 19-20

I. Good Son, Great Friend – Chapter 19:1-11

4. Jonathan was in a dreadful situation – conflicting demands on his loyalty. When this happens to us, what scriptural principles can we apply while decision-making?
5. P3: (Pastor Paul Paraphrase). God is always good and loving, sometimes in obvious ways, sometimes in unexpected or obscure ways. How do we remember, during stress or grief, that God has not stopped being good and loving?
6. P3: "Don't leave spears around violent people." So obvious it is amusing. However, what is the underlying principle, and how might we apply that principle when dealing with friends and family?

II. When Deception is Permitted – Chapter 19:12-17

7. Michal lied to Saul and deceived Saul's messengers. Rahab lied to the soldiers looking for the spies. David deceived King Achish. Jonathan will lie to Saul in verses 20: 28 – 29. Can we conclude that:
 - a. Honesty is not a moral absolute?
 - b. It is OK to lie if it serves a greater purpose? (ie. Something good will result from the lie.)

III. The Power of God Displayed – Chapter 19:18-24

8. What was the meaning of King Saul and his messengers prophesying when they went to David's hiding place?
9. What was the meaning of King Saul stripping off his clothes when he arrived at Naioth at Ramah?
10. In verse 23, Saul was filled for the final time with the spirit of God. What do these events tell us about God's relationship with Saul?

IV. Pact of Protection – Chapter 20:1-23

11. Does David honor Jonathan's request for protection for him and his family?

V. Parting with Promise – Chapter 20:24-42

12. Pastor Paul said that he is uncomfortable with calling Jesus our "friend" because of the casual and often temporary nature of worldly friendships. How did he suggest we view friendship, and what model could we use?

Prayer Points:

- Praise the Lord for the things He has protected you from.
- Pray about investing more in the closest relationships you have (friend, spouse, family, etc.).
- Pray for those who feel alone and don't have those close relationships.