



Courageously Focused On Where You Are Going

October 7, 2018

Sermon Series Summary

Courageously Focused On Where You Are Going

Courageously Focused On Being Healthy

Courageously Focused On Being Obedient

Courageously Focused On Preparing for the End

Big Question: Are you focused on what will move your life forward?

Side Question: Are you focused on the wrong enemy?

I. What You Should Be Focused On At This Season In Your Life? (I Samuel 10:20-24, NKJV)

1. Focus on the best opportunities in front of you

- Saul was **heading to be king** and all that came with it
- Saul allowed unhealthy **thinking and habits** overtime to rob him

2. Focus on running to your best opportunity not running from it

- **10:20** And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. **21** When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen.
- But when **they sought him, he could not be found. 22 Therefore they inquired of the Lord further, “Has the man come here yet?”** And the Lord answered, “There he is, hidden among the equipment.”
- **23** So they ran and brought him from there; and when he stood among the people, **he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. 24** And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen, that *there is no one like him among all the people?*” So all the people shouted and said, “Long live the king!”

II. What God Focused On Compared to What Saul Focused On

1. God focused on making Saul King

- Saul was God’s choice to be King. God declared he was qualified and could be king if he was willing to overcome any flaws or tendencies he had in his life. But, throughout his life **he consistently lost focus** and was overrun by his own stubbornness and rebellious tendencies. Saul wanted to do what he wanted to do when he wanted to do it.
- **1 Samuel 10:1** Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: “Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance? (NKJV)

2. Saul focused on killing David

A. He was angry because of a song patriotic women wrote (I Samuel 18:5-9, NKJV)

- 5 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. 6 Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that **the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. 7 So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousand."**

B. Saul was focused on misguided jealousy (I Samuel 18:8-9, NKJV)

- 8 Then **Saul was very angry**, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousand, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 **So Saul eyed David from that day forward.**

Note: Scriptural Version Change to the New Living Translation (I Samuel 18:10-11)

- The very next day a **tormenting spirit from God** overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand, and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice.

Note: The Commentary On the Old Testament by Kiel, Frederick and Frank calls this moment when it occurs again in Saul's life (I Samuel 16:14-23) "**an inward feeling of depression.**"

Insight: A person can be highly qualified by God's standard and fail because they refuse to focus on where they are going, on being healthy, being obedient, and preparing for the end.

III. Two Sets of Closing Questions I Want You to Focus On

1. Three Personal Questions for You to Consider

- Have you focused too long on fighting and being **angry with the wrong people**?
- Have you focused large amounts of your time and energy **chasing your perceived villain**?
- Have you been **focused on the opportunities in front of you**?

2. Three Personal Questions I Want Our Church to Focus On

- Are we focused on being **healthier** over the next five years?
- Are we focused on being **obedient** to God's best plans for us?
- Are we focused and **preparing** for our senior days?

Next Time: Courageously Focused On Being Healthy (Why so many Christians are not)

Read Ahead: I Samuel 15:1-35, 19:1-17 and Matthew 23:27-28

Hint: Unhealthy people have a hard time being consistent (I fight this every day)