

1 Samuel 14:1-23 – Faith That Dares

May 8, 2022

1. Background

2. Daring faith must be willing to take risks.

One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side."...

1 Samuel 14:1a (ESV)

...But he did not tell his father. 1 Samuel 14:1b (ESV)

Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah in the pomegranate cave at Migron...

1 Samuel 14:2a (ESV)

...The people who were with him were about six hundred men, including Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, son of Phinehas, son of Eli, the priest of the LORD in Shiloh, wearing an ephod.... 1 Samuel 14:2b–3a (ESV)

...And the people did not know that Jonathan had gone. 1 Samuel 14:3b (ESV)

Within the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistine garrison, there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side. The name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. The one crag rose on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba. 1 Samuel 14:4–5 (ESV)

- Crag means cliff.
- Bozez means slippery.

- Senah means thorny.

Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few." 1 Samuel 14:6 (ESV)

1. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few.

Jonathan's daring faith came from knowing how God worked in the past and believing he may do it again.

- Judges 3 — Ehud singlehandedly conquered Eglon king of Moab.
- Judges 3 — Shamgar killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad.
- Judges 6 — Gideon conquered 120,000 Midianites with an army of 300.
- **The way to have daring faith that takes risks for God is to know how God responded to the daring faith of his people in the past and then know He is still responding to daring faith for God's kingdom today.**
 - God saved his people in an unexpected way at the Red Sea. God still rescues his people from their trials in unseen and unexpected ways.
 - When Sennacherib the Assyrian surrounded Jerusalem, King Hezekiah prayed and God struck 185,000 Assyrians dead. God still responds to the prayers of his people for rescue.

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16 (ESV)

- Joseph refused to dishonor God by sinning with his master's wife yet he was jailed on false accusations. God used those dark trials to elevate Joseph to second in command over all of Egypt. In a similar way, God still uses the suffering He allows in our lives to mature us and to display his grace and power to us and through us.
- **We don't want to be like Saul sitting under a pomegranate tree far from the action doing nothing waiting for something to happen. We want to be like Jonathan on the front lines exercising daring faith and seeing if God shows up to make a difference.**
 - It is when we attempt great things for God, that we can expect great things from God. - William Carey

2. Offer yourself to be used by God, don't demand to be used by God.

...it may be that God will work through us... 1 Samuel 14:6 (ESV)

And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Mark 14:36 (ESV)

And his armor-bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Do as you wish. Behold, I am with you heart and soul." 1 Samuel 14:7 (ESV)

3. A faith that dares great things for God will often experience great things from God.

Then Jonathan said, "Behold, we will cross over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them. If they say to us, 'Wait until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place, and we will not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up, for the LORD has given them into our hand. And this shall be the sign to us." 1 Samuel 14:8–10 (ESV)

So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, "Look, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves." And the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor-bearer and said, "Come up to us, and we will show you a thing." And Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel." 1 Samuel 14:11–12 (ESV)

Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him. And that first strike, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow's length in an acre of land. And there was a panic in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and even the raiders trembled, the earth quaked, and it became a very great panic. 1 Samuel 14:13–15 (ESV)

4. Daring faith rallies the faith of others.

And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and behold, the multitude was dispersing here and there. 1 Samuel 14:16 (ESV)

Then Saul said to the people who were with him, "Count and see who has gone from us." And when they had counted, behold, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were not there. 1 Samuel 14:17 (ESV)

So Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God here." For the ark of God went at that time with the people of Israel. 1 Samuel 14:18 (ESV)

Now while Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the camp of the Philistines increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand." 1 Samuel 14:19 (ESV)

*Then Saul and all the people who were with him rallied and went into the battle...
1 Samuel 14:20a (ESV)*

...And behold, every Philistine's sword was against his fellow, and there was very great confusion. 1 Samuel 14:20b (ESV)

Now the Hebrews who had been with the Philistines before that time and who had gone up with them into the camp, even they also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. Likewise, when all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were fleeing, they too followed hard after them in the battle. 1 Samuel 14:21–22 (ESV)

So the LORD saved Israel that day... 1 Samuel 14:23a (ESV)

...And the battle passed beyond Beth-aven. 1 Samuel 14:23b (ESV)

Application

1. God wants us to have a faith that dares great things for God.
 2. A faith that dares great things for God will often experience great things from God.
 3. A faith that dares great things for God rallies others to action.
- **Am I like Saul? Am I content to sit in the shade far from the battle waiting to see if God will show up? Am I like Jonathan? Will I take initiative, get into the action, and take big steps of faith knowing that when God sees daring faith in people or a church He typically shows up to carry them through?**
 - **At CrossWinds, we are reaching people with Jesus. As we reach people with Jesus we want to be a church of daring faith that takes bold steps to reach our region with Jesus expecting God will show up to carry us through.**

Life Group Questions

1. What did you learn in this week's lesson that you did not know? What questions do you have?
2. If you have read Christian biographies, share stories of daring faith in the lives of famous Christians and how God showed up.
3. Jonathan's faith and victory illustrate how God can use one person to inspire faith in others. What leaders, pastors, or missionaries has God used in your life to inspire faith in you?
4. Jonathan's daring faith was developed from his knowledge of how God rescued his people in the past. Jonathan was confident God would show up again. How has your knowledge of the Bible given you faith to live differently today?
5. Are you more like a Saul or a Jonathan? What might it look like for you to live with daring faith today? Why is it important to be part of a church that takes risks for the gospel?