
SERMON OUTLINE

Saul the Dysfunctional Leader

1 Samuel 14:24-52

- I. Saul's leadership created embittered soldiers and led to his own humiliation (1 Samuel 14:24-45).
- A. Unreasonable— Because of my pride (1 Sam. 14:24-34)
 - Creating distress because basic needs were lacking
 - Creating bitterness in his son (Colossians 3:21)
 - Provoking army to sin (Ephesians 6:4)
 - B. Spiritual surges— When I'm desperate (1 Sam. 14:35-37)
 - God may not answer when we've ignored him.
 - C. Anger— Because I'm never wrong (1 Sam. 14:38-43)
 - Blaming others to avoid taking responsibility
 - Provoking fear and losing the communication of his men
 - D. Loss of influence— I'm humiliated (1 Sam. 14:44-45)
 - Empty threats to defend an irrational decision
 - Eventual rebellion against an angry leader
- II. God worked redemptively in spite of Saul's leadership failures (1 Samuel 14:1-23; 46-52).
- A. **Israel**— God sovereignly does good things, even through unhealthy people (1 Sam. 14:46-52).
 - B. **Jonathan**— I am not doomed to repeat the character of those who have hurt or failed me (1 Sam. 14:1-23).
 - C. **Me**— With God's help I can change the unhealthy ways I have treated people (1 John).

Developing Relationships that Work

- 1 John 1:6-9 — Transparency — *Don't deny sin, Confess it.*
- 1 John 2:9-11 — New Attitudes — *Stop hating and bitterness.*
- 1 John 4:16-21 — No emotional games — *Don't use fear or manipulation. God motivates with love not fear.*

Open Door Bible Church 3-30-14
