

Series graphic w/email

{come up one at a time; same slide}

C-R-I-S-I-S (I Samuel 19)

- Christmas came from a crisis and occurred in a crisis.
- Know how to “crisis” ... ☞ Knowing God in a peculiar way ...

{same slide; all at once}

In a crisis, our beliefs will be challenged (attacked & even altered).

- About God
- About ourselves
- About prayer
- About life as we know it

{same slide}

In a crisis, Satan (and our flesh/ego), wants to put question marks where God has put periods.

- **Genesis 3:3** – “... *Did God really say ...?*”

I Samuel 19:1-3

Saul ordered his son Jonathan and all his servants to kill David. But Saul’s son Jonathan liked David very much, so he told him, “My father, Saul, intends to kill you. Be on your guard in the morning and hide in a secret place and stay there. I’ll go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are and talk to him about you. When I see what he says, I’ll tell you.”

God knows how to keep His promises to His people.

Nothing can keep God from keeping us.

I Samuel 19:4-6

Jonathan spoke well of David to his father, Saul. He said to him, “The king should not sin against his servant David. He hasn’t sinned against you; in fact, his actions have been a great advantage to you. He took his life in his hands when he struck down the Philistine, and the Lord brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced, so why would you sin against innocent blood by killing David for no reason?” Saul listened to Jonathan’s advice and swore an oath: “As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be killed.”

I Samuel 19:7-8

So Jonathan summoned David and told him all these words. Then Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he served him as he did before. When war broke out again, David went out and fought against the Philistines. He defeated them with such great force that they fled from him.

In a crisis, the one question we should ask:

*Am I doing the **right things**? Am I being **faithful** ...?*

I Samuel 19:9-11

Now an evil spirit sent from the Lord came on Saul as he was sitting in his palace holding a spear. David was playing the lyre, and Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear. As the spear struck the wall, David eluded Saul, ran away, and escaped that night. **Saul sent agents** to David's house to watch for him and kill him in the morning. But his wife **Michal** warned David, "If you don't escape tonight, you will be dead tomorrow!"

I Samuel 19:12-24

- Michal's protection through deception
- David to Samuel at Ramah
- Saul's 3 groups of agents ☞ Holy Spirit
- Saul himself at Ramah ☞ Holy Spirit

God knows how to keep His promises to His people.

Nothing can keep God from keeping us.

I Samuel 20:1

David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came to Jonathan and **asked**, "What have I done? What did I do wrong? How have I sinned against your father so that he wants to take my life?"

Psalms 59:1-3

Rescue me from my enemies, my God; **protect me** from those who rise up against me. Rescue me from evildoers, and **save me** from men of bloodshed. Because look, Lord, they set an ambush for me. Powerful men attack me, but not because of any sin or rebellion of mine.

We must know God as **refuge** and how to **refuge** in God.

☞Refuge: protection against the storm while IN the storm.

{same slide; one at a time}

Crisis on 2 Levels:

- Our situation (a valley)
- Our soul (???)

Psalm 59:4-8

For no fault of mine, they run and take up a position. **Awake** to help me, and take notice.

Lord God of Armies, You are the God of Israel. Rise up to punish all the nations;

do not show favor to any wicked traitors. *Selah*

They return at evening, snarling like dogs and prowling around the city. Look, they spew from their mouths— sharp words from their lips. “For who,” they say, “will hear?”

But **You laugh** at them, Lord; **You ridicule** all the nations.

1) Declare the **sovereignty of God** over the valley.

A valley in our life does not mean a **wrong turn**.

(Remember who likes question marks!)

{come up one at a time}

3 Types of Valleys:

- a) God sent me here
- b) I took a wrong turn
- c) Beyond my understanding

“When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which you lay your head.”

{Charles Spurgeon}

Psalm 59:9-10

I will keep watch for you, my strength, because God is my **stronghold**. My **faithful God** will come to meet me; God will let me look down on my adversaries.

2) Turn decisively to the **Person of God**.

☑An act of the will, not our feelings.

{come up one at a time}

Thanksgiving Test:

- Are we thankful for our blessings?
- Could our blessings actually be idols?
- General vs. Peculiar Thanksgiving

State the facts of faith ... feelings will eventually align.

When we are looking at the Person of God, we are no longer demanding explanations from Him.

Psalm 59:11-14

Do not kill them ... By your power, make them homeless wanderers and bring them down, **Lord, our shield** ... Consume them in fury; consume them until they are gone. Then people will know **throughout the earth** that **God rules** over Jacob. *Selah*
And they return at evening, snarling like dogs and prowling around the city ...

3) Bring the crisis to God **in honesty** and **into alignment** with His renown.

Rock Bridge Question:

What will bring God the most glory?

Psalm 59:16-17

But I will **sing** of Your strength and will joyfully proclaim Your faithful love in the morning. For You have been a **stronghold** for me, a **refuge** in my day of trouble. To You, **my strength**, I **sing** praises, because God is my **stronghold**—my **faithful God**.

4) **Sing** to defy the “questions” and keep the “periods” in place.

Singing (Psalm 100:1-2):

- A response to grace and a means of grace
- An ambush and an attack on our enemies

Corporate Singing (Eph. 5:18-19)

- Weakens self-consciousness ☒ Less of me ...
- Unified attention on God
- Stirs affections for God

I Samuel 19:23-24

So [Saul] went to ... Ramah. The Spirit of God also came on him, and as he walked along, he prophesied ... Saul then removed his clothes and also prophesied before Samuel; he collapsed and lay naked all that day and all that night. That is why they say, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

A person can be **affected** by the presence of God but not **surrendered** to the presence of God, which always results in a changed life marked by joy, power, hope, and Christ-like character.