

# ***The Power of Two***

## ***Profile of Courageous Faith – 1 Samuel 13:13—14:23; Matthew 18:20***

**Main Idea:** God loves to use the underdog with strong faith and a good friend to help. This is the story of how God used Jonathan to take a great risk of faith and win a great victory for the kingdom. As a result, Jonathan lifts up others around him.

### **1. *OBSTACLES* – People of courageous faith discover courage in the crucible of impossible situations. Jonathan faced 4 obstacles. 1 Sam. 13:13-23; 14:2-3a**

- A. An unclear future – Jonathan has discovered he will never be king. 13:13-14
- B. A powerful enemy – Jonathan is outnumbered by the Philistine army. 13:15-18
- C. A pitiful lack of resources – Jonathan's men arm themselves only with farm implements. 13:19-23
  - 1. The Philistines likely had chariots, horses and plenty of soldiers.
  - 2. But Jonathan's men had only their farm tools.
- D. A pathetic lack of leadership – Jonathan's father is passive and weak. 14:2-3a
  - 1. Saul is sitting under a pomegranate tree with very few soldiers. 14:2
  - 2. Saul surrounds himself with men who are losers. (House of Eli, not Samuel.) 14:3a
- E. What do you do in the face of impossible circumstances?

### **2. *OPPORTUNITIES* – People of courageous faith are driven by a big view of God. 1 Samuel 14:1-15**

- A. When we have a big view of God, we explore options for the future. 14:1-5
  - 1. Jonathan proposes private exploratory trip into the enemy territory. 14:1
  - 2. How you respond to the future speaks volumes about your faith.
- B. When we have a big view of God, we start making some plans in faith. 14:6-11
  - 1. Jonathan's faith plans were consistent with the promises of God. Deut. 28:7
  - 2. Jonathan's faith plans receives encouragement from his friend. 14:7
  - 3. Jonathan goes from planning to specific strategy. 14:8-12
- C. When we have a big view of God, we'll see him do some amazing things. 14:13-15
  - 1. We do things we never thought possible. (A brutally difficult climb.) 14:4-5; 13a
  - 2. We start gaining some initial successes. (Start small and grow.) 14:13b-14
  - 3. We see God's power in action. (God begins to disrupt the Philistine camp.) 14:15
- D. What are you dreaming about? Are you dreaming about big things to fulfill God's kingdom?

### **3. *OUTCOME* – People of courageous faith lift others around them in spite of their commitment to God. But they do it for a purpose. 1 Samuel 14:16-23**

- A. The story continues; we see three sets of people with little or no commitment to God. 14:16-19
  - 1. Saul has the attitude of controlling God by using the Ark. 14:16-19
  - 2. The traitors are opportunistic; they decide to switch their allegiance. 14:21
  - 3. Some deserters are fair weather believers; they decide to join the battle late. 14:22
- B. Jonathan's leadership lifts up everyone. 14:23
  - 1. Because of Jonathan's leadership, the Philistines fight themselves.
  - 2. Because of Jonathan's leadership, the Lord delivers Israel.
- C. Jonathan's leadership lifts up with a purpose: to glorify God! 14:20, 23