

Refiner's Fire – How we Become People after God's Own Heart – Week One

Profile of a Person after God's Own Heart

1 Samuel 17:55-18:30

Introduction: This morning we begin a new series in 1 Samuel 17:55-31:31 called *Refiner's Fire*. It's a study in how God transforms us into people of *his* own heart (which was the mission of Israel [Deut. 6:4]). In this 15 chapter segment, David slowly matures into a powerful God-follower who is ultimately able to "*strengthen himself in God*" in the toughest of times (30:6b). But this maturity only comes through God's painful refining love. We begin this morning with a profile of the person after God's heart. The author of 1 Samuel does this with three contrasts.

- 1. 1ST CONTRAST: SAUL VS. JONATHAN – Jonathan seeks God's kingdom, but Saul is blind to it. 1 Samuel 17:55 – 18:5**
 - A. *Saul's ignorance* – Saul is pictured as not knowing David's background. 17:55-58
 - B. *Jonathan's insight* – Jonathan sees God's kingdom plan and commits to it. 18:1-6
 - C. *What we learn* – There's a difference between those who see God's kingdom and those who don't.

- 2. 2ND CONTRAST: SAUL VS. DAVID – David relies on God's true strength, but Saul relies on his false strength. 1 Samuel 18:6-16**
 - A. *Profile of false strength* – It's the anxious need to trust self because you can't trust God.
 - B. *Profile of true strength* – It's the ability to meet life's obstacles calmly with God's power.
 - C. *What we learn* – Your outlook on strength is the product of choices you make toward God.

- 3. 3RD CONTRAST: SAUL VS. DAVID – David lives his life with authenticity, but Saul is addicted to hypocrisy. 1 Samuel 18:17-30**
 - A. *First interchange* – We see Saul's hypocrisy with regard to his family. 18:17-19
 - B. *Second interchange* – We see David's authenticity with regard to Saul's family. 18:20-30