

## LEADER TIPS

### Sermon Scripture References

Hebrews 12:1-2; Leviticus 7:26-27; Matthew 15:7-9; Matthew 23:4; Matthew 18:6-7; Matthew 11: 28-30; Matthew 20:25-28

### Sermon Description

Our culture is obsessed with heroes and villains. All the major movie franchise accentuates heroes and villains battling it out for either the deliverance or domination of others. Often, tensions arise when ambiguity between who the true heroes and villains are is created. For example, Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight ends with Batman being treated like a villain.

A similar dynamic is at work in 1 Samuel 14:23b-52. The one Israel chose to be their hero—King Saul acts more like a villain. But, King Saul's son Jonathan, acts like a hero but is treated like a villain. There, is where we shall find echoes of the gospel story centering on the true and better son, the true and better Jonathan—the ultimate hero who was treated like a villain to become our hero.

## DISCUSSION PRIMER

What is the difference between heroes and villains? How did Jesus act heroically? In what ways, might we echo his heroism in our daily lives?

## SERMON OUTLINE

WHEN MESS MEETS MERCY: THE GOSPEL OF 1 SAMUEL  
"HEROES AND VILLAINS": 1 SAMUEL 14:23B-52

Big Idea: Jesus was treated like a villain to become our hero.

- The Words of the King
  - I command (v. 24)
  - I charge (v. 28)
  - I condemn (v. 44)
  - In contrast with Saul, Jesus said...Matthew 11:28-30
- The Words of the Son
  - I sympathize (vv. 29-30)
  - I sacrifice (v. 43)
  - In concert with Jonathan, Jesus said...Matthew 20:25-28
- The Words of the People
  - "The Son saves!" (v. 45)
  - In the crosshairs of the people, Jesus heard..."The Son must die!"
- Jesus was treated like a villain so he could become our hero.
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## INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- ▶ How might faith and common sense be pitted against each other? Why or why not? When might faith and common sense be at odds with each other? Can you name examples of both in Scripture? (ie Paul telling Timothy to drink some wine to settle his stomach; Jesus calling Peter to step out of the boat).
- ▶ How might charity be given to those we disagree with in matters related to faith and common sense, or faith and Christian conscience?
- ▶ Villains say, "I command. I charge. I condemn." Heroes say, "I sympathize. I sacrifice." What words have characterized your attitude and actions more frequently this past week? How might our attitude and actions shift in a heroic direction this coming week?
- ▶ How was Jesus treated like a villain? How does he become our hero?

## REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read [1 Samuel 14:23b-52](#) and explore together what the passages reveal about:

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ?    |
| 2) The fallen human condition?        | 5) Our obedience to Christ?   |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ?        | 6) Our relationship to others |

## APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • a command to obey?  | • a beauty to behold?  | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe?  | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell?     |