

## MESSAGE # 5: INFIDELITY IN THE WORK OF GOD

Biblical Passages: 1 Samuel 16-20

### I. Introducing the Subject:

It is hardly an in-depth study to look at five chapters in a quick glance but that is what I will do at this time. In chapter 16 David is called to play for Saul, in chapter 17 is the Goliath incident, in 18 is the tortured dwelling of David in Saul's house, while in 19 and 20 David is fleeing for his life. My entitlement of these episodes may be a little severe but it seems to me that it accurately portrays one of the great factors in Saul's failure and rejection of God. We have seen something of his casual attitude towards the commandment of God in chapter 15 and now we find him acting in an extremely hostile and arbitrary way. It is not a pleasant picture but we need to take it to heart and we will see that in all the ages of the church....one of the great causes of strife, stress and failure has been this: infidelity in the work of God.

### II. Discussion: There are several sides to this matter and I am working with just three---all of which mirror the concept of infidelity.

- A. Not being what one really is! Well, that is a conundrum of its own, I suppose, but when one has a position and is not willing to live it one should either give it up or, as we say, "get with it." Saul is unwilling to exercise the leader's role that should have been his, either fighting Goliath himself or appointing someone to do it...or finding a resolution to the affair. If you have a gift from God (all believers do) you are to exercise it and to fail to use it is to be unfaithful in the work of God.
- B. Resenting the work of God in others. If you cannot do it yourself you should be thankful for those who can. David defeats the giant and soon is receiving the praise of Israel. Saul is green with envy and this becomes a torturing spirit to him that keeps him in anguish. Most of us are not totally free from this sort of emotional stress but we need to confess our failures and learn to take delight in God's working with others. Envy will drive one to desperate ends and the result is very often harmful.
- C. Refusing to respond to God's instruction...one of the things that has marked Saul's downfall in a consistent way. The troubling