

Confidence; Acts 13:21-23

I. Confidence

- A. Confidence is something that a lot of us need to nurture
 - 1. We are afraid because we feel we lack something
 - 2. We don't lack anything; God has given us everything we need for life and Godliness; for this life here in the flesh and for the next in eternity
- B. We often look in the wrong places for our confidence
 - 1. We look to academia, wealth, careers, drugs, and other areas
 - 2. Each of us has a different 'Achilles heel'
 - 3. We think we need just a little more knowledge, money, another promotion, another high
- C. In truth, what we need is Faith in our savior, hope in His resurrection, and a heart for God

II. Faith

- A. "A faith like Daniel"
 - 1. Daniel 6:1-3 (ESV) ¹ It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ² and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³ Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.
 - 2. This is reminiscent of Joseph who became second only to Pharaoh in Egypt
 - a. As a young boy Joseph refused to be seduced by Potiphar's wife
 - b. Joseph refused to let his circumstances in jail shake his faith
 - 3. Daniel 6:4 (ESV) ⁴ Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him.
 - 4. So, they dreamed up a plan (a heart that devises wicked plans, Proverbs 6:18) based on Daniel's habit of praying and brought it to the king, and the king signed it
 - 5. Daniel 6:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.
 - 6. In verses 11-21, Daniel is arrested and thrown into the lions' den.
 - a. We don't read anything from Daniel, he doesn't say a thing
 - b. He is arrested, charged, convicted, and thrown into the lions' den without saying a word
 - c. We learn a lot about the king in these verses; how he did not want Daniel to be killed and tried to save him
 - d. The king even asked (Daniel's) God to save him in 6:16
 - e. I really think this event is about the king and not about Daniel

7. God sent an angel to close the mouths of the lions and we see the king's reaction to Daniel, learning he is alive and well
 8. Daniel 6:25–27 (ESV) ²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. ²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. ²⁷ He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."
- B. I imagine that Daniel might have been a little afraid and he was tossed into the den, but God doesn't tell us that (remember, Daniel witnessed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace)
 - C. Are we so confident in our faith that death no longer holds any power over us?
- III. Hope
- A. "A hope like Moses"
 - B. Confident expectation
 - C. There is a contrast between Moses and the rest of Israel
 1. Israel
 - a. Israel constantly (and consistently) complains about their circumstances
 - b. From the very day that Pharaoh releases them from slavery they complained
 - c. Even Miriam and Aaron (Moses' sister and brother) spoke against him in Numbers 12 because he had married a Cushite woman
 - d. Numbers 12:3–8 (ESV) ³ Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. ⁴ And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." And the three of them came out. ⁵ And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. ⁶ And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. ⁷ Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"
 - e. Miriam is stricken with leprosy for 7 days
 2. Moses
 - a. Moses, on the other hand, defends them
 - b. Numbers 12:11–13 (ESV) ¹¹ And Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. ¹² Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb." ¹³ And Moses cried to the LORD, "O God, please heal her—please."
 - c. Even when he strikes the rock and God tells him he will not enter the land of promise, Moses continues in his role as a mediator between Israel and God
 - d. In Numbers 13 God instructs Moses to send spies into the land of promise, a representative from each tribe

- e. When they returned, they gave their report; ten of the spies said that the inhabitants were too strong, were too big, and that they would be devoured
 - f. Israel even wanted to choose a new leader and go back to Egypt
 - g. God intends to punish the people
 - h. Numbers 14:12 (ESV) ¹² I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.”
 - i. But Moses intercedes for them again and God relents
 - j. Moses knows he will not enter the land, but he also knows that Israel will
 - k. In all of this, Moses never lost his confident expectation of Israel entering the land of promise
- D. Is our faith such that we have a confident expectation of entering the “land of promise?”

IV. Heart

A. “A heart like David”

B. God gives Israel a king (with plenty of warnings)

1. God anoints Saul king over Israel
2. Saul disobeys God and God takes the kingdom from Saul
3. 1 Samuel 13:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”
4. God chooses David, the son of Jesse and anoints him king in 1 Samuel 16

C. Goliath

1. We are familiar with this event in 1 Samuel 17
2. David runs as an errand boy, running food to the camp where the Israelite army is facing the Philistine army and Goliath
3. Goliath is around nine feet tall with strong armor and weapons
4. All the Israelite army is afraid of him and scatters when he comes out to challenge them (probably daily)
5. David hears the challenge, listen to his response
6. 1 Samuel 17:26 (ESV) ²⁶ And David said to the men who stood by him, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”
7. David finds himself in front of Saul; 1 Samuel 17:32 (ESV) ³² And David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”
8. 1 Samuel 17:36–37 (ESV) ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” ³⁷ And David said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!”
9. Saul tries to give David his armor, but David refuses
10. David faces off against Goliath with a staff and a sling

11. This is such a lopsided picture, a seasoned warrior in strong armor with a spear and a sword and a small boy with a staff and a sling
 12. Goliath is offended that Israel would send out such a small boy with no weapons, "Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?"
 13. Listen to David's heart, 1 Samuel 17:45–47 (ESV) ⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."
 14. David was "all in" for God, God had his whole heart
- D. God wants our (your) heart
1. Matthew 5:8 (ESV) ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
 2. Matthew 22:37 (ESV) ^{18a} Love the Lord your God with all your heart
 3. Acts 2:37 (ESV) ^{37a} Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart
 4. Romans 6:17 (ESV) ^{17b} have become obedient from the heart
 5. Romans 10:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
 6. There are so many more Scriptures that describe how God wants us completely, with all our hearts
- E. Is your heart right with God so that you are willing to face your giants with confidence?
- V. Confidence
- A. Are we so confident in our faith that death no longer holds any power over us?
 - B. Is our faith such that we have a confident expectation of entering the "land of promise?"
 - C. Can you face your giants with confidence?