

Life Lessons From 1 Samuel  
Faith, Foolishness and Reality  
1 Samuel 14:1-52 (page 194)

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Frank Mascaro

Faith is always moving forward (1 Sam 14:1-23)

Faith:

- takes the initiative (vs 1-3; Josh 14:10-12)
- always has its confidence in God  
(vs 4-7; Dan 3:17-18; Luke 18:27; Phil 4:13)
- results in courageous action (vs 8-14; James 2:18)
- understands that the battle is not mine, but the Lord's (vs 15-19; 2 Chr 20:15)
- that is vibrant will encourage others to trust God as well (vs 20-23; 1 Thess 3:7)

Foolishness always leads us into trouble  
(1 Sam 14:24-46)

We can act foolishly when we:

- try to manipulate God (vs 24; Ecc 5:2)
- cause others undeserved distress  
(vs 25-30; Prov 27:3)
- cause others to sin against God (vs 31-35; Matt 18:7)
- neglect to seek the will of God before we act  
(vs 36-37; James 4:15)
- refuse to repent and admit we were wrong  
(vs 38-46; 1 John 1:8-10)

The reality of our legacy will ultimately be revealed (1 Sam 14:47-52)

Will my life be measured by:

- what other people deem to be success? (vs 47-52)
- what God deems to be success?

**Life Lessons:**

1. Sometimes faith requires us to wait, when at other times faith requires us to act in that moment.
2. God purposely brings us into "*impossible*" situations so we will know we cannot save ourselves so that He can deliver us and receive all the glory.
3. Our example of faith can encourage others to follow the Lord; while our foolishness can cause others to be discouraged and dismiss the Lord.
4. History's view of us may differ greatly from God's view of us.