

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN

THE LIFE OF KING SAUL

I SAMUEL 18: 1-30

TEXT:

INTRODUCTION:

Thus far in our series of studies on the life of King Saul, we have seen him come into the arena at a time when the people were crying to be like other nations and desiring a king. Saul was the one chosen and Samuel anointed him in the second study. There were also a number of accompanying signs that this was of God's purpose that such would happen.

In study number three, we witnessed Saul's successful conflict against the Ammonites and the confirmation of him as king.

In episode number four, we saw the tragic impatience of Saul taking Samuel's place and offering the sacrifice, and the judgement of Saul by saying that he had acted foolishly and had not kept the commandment of the Lord. And now his kingdom would not endure.

In episode number five, we saw Jonathan move ahead in battle against the Philistines and actually precipitate the whole conflict. And the Lord rescued them that day and gave them victory.

However, Saul bound them to a oath not to eat and Jonathan disobeyed this, unbeknownst to the fact that his father has commanded the men not to partake. And the men as a result, had to rescue Jonathan from his father's sword.

In study number six, we see the tragic disobedience as Saul keeps alive Agag, the king of the Amalekites, and quite of the livestock, when the Lord had given specific instructions for them to be totally destroyed.

Samuel points out the fact that because he had rejected the Word of the Lord, the Lord has rejected him as king. Saul makes a final pleas for Samuel to worship with him, but Samuel only condescends and does not change the message of the Lord, that the kingdom was now taken from Saul and going to be given someone after God's own heart.

when you repent you do something about it!!

This now prepares us for study number seven, and here we are going to see the beautiful relationship that develops between Jonathan and David.

VERSE ONE: "After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself."

Delitzsch points out, "David's victory over Goliath was a turning point in his life, which opened the way to the throne. While this heroic deed brought him out of his rural shepard life to the scene of Israel's conflict with its foes and in these conflicts, Jehovah crowned all his undertakings with such evident success, that the Israelites could not fail to discern more and more clearly in him the man whom God had chosen as their future king. It brought him on the other hand into such a relation to the royal

- ① King
- ② Anointing
- ③ Ammonites
- ④ Sacrifice
- ⑤ Lord Rescues
 - 1- Philistines
 - 2- Father
- ⑥ Amalekites
- Two Things:
 - ① Samuel
 - ② Anoints David
 - ③ Goliath
 - ④ Friendship

house, which had been rejected by God, though it still continued to reign, as produced lasting and beneficial results in connection with his future calling.

Saul - Jealousy
Jonathan - oneness

In the king himself from whom the Spirit of God had departed, there was soon stirred up such jealousy of David as his rival, to whom the kingdom would one day come that he attempted at first to get rid of him by strategy. And when this failed, and David's renown steadily increased, he proceeded to open hostility and persecution. On the other hand, the heart of Jonathan clung more and more firmly to David, with self-denying love and sacrifice. This friendship on the part of the brave and noble son of the king, not only helped David to bear the more easily all the enmity and persecution of the king, when plagued by his evil spirit that awakened and strengthened his soul, that pure feeling of unswerving fidelity toward the king himself which amounted even to love of his enemy. And according to the marvelous counsel of the Lord, contributed greatly to the training of David for his calling to be a king after God's own heart."

Blaikie points out, "The conquerer of Goliath had been promised as his reward, the eldest daughter of the king in marriage. The fulfillment of that promise if not utterly neglected, was at least delayed but as David lost the hand of the king's daughter, he gained what could not have been promised, the heart of the king's son.

It was little wonder that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David. And Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Besides all else about David, that was attractive to Jonathan as it was attractive to everyone there was that strongest of all bonds, the bond of a common all-prevailing faith. Faith in the Covenant God of Israel, that had now shown itself in David in overwhelming strength, as it had shown itself in Jonathan, some time before at Michmash."

Just as David was a man after God's own heart, I'm sure that he appeared to be that to Jonathan. Who can measure the depth of friendship that these two young men discovered in each other, and the agreement that they found with regard to the future destiny of God's people.

Hold!

Saul's jealousy had increased so greatly that when David came back from the battle against Goliath, the women began singing, "Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten-thousands." This greatly displeased Saul and caused a bitter jealousy to arise within his heart.

McGee points out, "David was speaking to Saul, Saul had called David after the battle because he wanted to give him recognition for his deed. As Jonathan, Saul's son stood there listening as David and his father talked, the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David. The relationship of these two men was quite wonderful. We often speak about the love of a man for a woman, and that is wonderful. But nothing is as fine and noble as the love of two men for each other. They see in each other a mirror of themselves and are drawn together. Two men can be real friends they can enjoy athletics and recreation together, they can work together and have a social life together. Jonathan was an outstanding man, as we have seen, and he loved David for his courage and his confidence in God."

Jonathan = Philistines
David = Goliath

OLD FRIENDS

*There are no friends like old friends
And none so good and true.
We greet them when we meet them,
As roses greet the dew.*

*No other friends are dearer,
Though born of kindred mold.
And while we prize the new ones,
We treasure more the old.*

*And when they smile to gladden,
Or, sometimes, frown to guide,
We fondly wish those old friends
Were always by our side!*

Thank God For You!

*Thank God for you, good friend of mine,
Seldom is friendship such as thine;
How very much I wish to be
As helpful as you've been to me—
THANK GOD FOR YOU.*

*Of many prayer guests, one thou art
On whom I ask God to impart
Rich blessings from His storehouse rare,
And grant to you His gracious care—
THANK GOD FOR YOU.*

*When I recall, from time to time,
How you inspired this heart of mine:
I find myself inclined to pray,
God bless my friend this very day—
THANK GOD FOR YOU.*

*So often, at the throne of Grace,
There comes a picture of your face;
And then, instinctively, I pray
That God may guide you all the way—
THANK GOD FOR YOU.*

*Some day, I hope, with you to stand
Before the throne, at God's right hand,
And say to you — at journey's end:
"Praise God, you've been to me a friend,
THANK GOD FOR YOU."*

VERSE TWO: "From that day Saul kept David with him, and did not let him return to his father's house."

Because of what has taken place in the battle with the Philistines and David's triumph over Goliath, he now has become a public figure. And he will occupy that position for the rest of his life.

He evidently is being retained by Saul for some special public service.

VERSE THREE: "And Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as himself."

McGee points out, "The covenant that these two men made was that they would stick together. It is difficult to find another friendship equal to what these men had. There is nothing quite like it in the Scriptures."

This then is a covenant of friendship which they make with one another.

VERSE FOUR: "Jonathan took off he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic and even his sword, his bow and his belt."

McGee points out, "David was a peasant boy and he did not have the clothes befitting his new public life. Jonathan shared his wardrobe with David. It was a very generous thing to do."

Delitzsch points out, "As a sign and pledge of his friendship, Jonathan gave David his clothes and his armour. This seems to have been a common custom in very ancient times, as we meet with it also among the early Celts."

VERSE FIVE: "Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people and Saul's as well."

Just as Joseph experienced blessing and prosperity in Potiphar's house, and even in the prison, so David finds good success in whatever Saul tells him to do. This good success led to an elevation in rank by Saul, and this pleased all the people and Saul's officers as well.

Usually, the officers and men of lower rank would be envious and jealous, but in this situation they are very pleased with the decision that Saul has made to elevate David to a position of command.

VERSE SIX: "When the men were returning home after David has killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel, to meet King Saul with singing and dancing. With joyful songs and with tambourines, and lutes."

You can imagine how excited King Saul is to see the ladies coming out singing and dancing because of the battle of liberation from the Philistines. A thorn in the side of Israel for many, many years of its history. But then what happens in Verse Seven creates a real problem.

He could see
God's purpose
Rahab & the
Two Spies

Don't Need
Much of A
Wardrobe to
Tend Sheep
Shorts, Shirt &
Tennis Shoes

Goliath
Philistines

* * *

*"If a man does not repent, He will sharpen his sword."
Psalm 7:12a*

On the way from our house to the office there comes a moment of decision. It is of little consequence. Do I want to go left or keep on going straight . . . the distance is just about the same either way. Most of the time before I have to make the final commitment I check the lights. If the light is green, go straight. If there is a green arrow for a left turn, ease into that lane and turn left. It is such an effortless decision. Hopefully that is the only lackadaisical decision I will allow myself to make that day.

Have you ever stopped to think how many decisions you make in one day? Some of little importance like — shall I take chicken or hamburger out of the freezer for dinner tonight? Should I order a veal cutlet or stick with the turkey sandwich and salad?

Then right out of the blue comes the opportunity to make a big choice. You have misjudged one of the children. When the situation is explained you stand there with your bare face hanging out. Now do you repent and say you are sorry and get everything straightened out with everyone concerned? Or do you sharpen your sword. "Well, he is always causing some kind of trouble. He needs to be taken down a notch or two." It is much easier to dig a trench and set yourself for battle than to wipe the proverbial egg off your face and admit you made a mistake. In fact, verse 15 of chapter 7 states, "He has dug a pit and hollowed it out." Very normal. Now he/she is going back into the past to dig up past indiscretions so that the sharp sword can draw a little blood. Perhaps a lot of noise will cover that uncomfortable feeling that you made a mistake and draw attention away from that by dragging out the "old red herring".

Unfortunately the rest of verse 15 says, "and has fallen into the hole which he made." By this time everyone in the house knows you are wrong and has turned you off. It will take days, or even years, to get out of that hole you dug yourself into and straighten things out. Don't try to justify your position in the hole — just climb out. Repent and be proud of a very dull sword.

VERSE SEVEN: "As they danced they sang, "Saul has slain his thousands and David his tens of thousands."

McGee points out, "Saul did not like the new song that the women were singing. Saul became jealous, of David, because of the people's applause and acceptance of him. As the story progresses, Saul will attempt to remove him from the limelight by actually destroying him. As David becomes the favorite of the people, he begins to see that Saul is not as friendly as he once was."

VERSE EIGHT: "Saul was very angry. This refrain galled him. They had credited David with tens of thousands he thought, but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom."

Delitzch points out, "In this forboding utterance of Saul there was involved not only a conjecture which the result confirmed, but a deep inward truth. If the King of Israel stood powerless before the subjugators of his kingdom, at so decisive a period as this, and a shepherd boy came and decided the victory, this was an additional mark of his rejection."

VERSE NINE: "And from that time on, Saul kept a jealous eye on David."

Blaikie points out, "If Saul had been a good man, he would have been horrified at the appearance of this evil passion in his heart. He would have said, Get thee behind me Satan. He would have striven to the utmost to strangle it in the womb. Oh what untold mountains of guilt, would this not have saved him in afterlife, and what mountains of guilt darkening their whole life would the policy of resistance in stamping out. When an evil lust or passion betrays its presence in their heart save to every young man and young woman who find for the first time evidence of its vitality, but instead of stamping it out, Saul nourished it. Instead of extinguishing the spark, he heaped on the flame. And his lust having been allowed to conceive, was not long of bringing forth. Under a fit of his malady, even as David was playing to him with his harp, he launched a javelin at him, no doubt in some degree an act of insanity, but yet, betraying a very horrible spirit."

VERSE TEN: "The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand."

McGee points out, "This is quite a dramatic scene, as David is playing on a harp and Saul is sitting over there playing with a javelin. David may have guessed what he had in mind, he may have hit a sour note or two, I don't know, but suddenly Saul threw the javelin."

Delitzch points out, "The word translated, prophesying, does not mean to prophesy in this instance, but "to rave." This use of the word is founded upon the extatic utterances in which the supernatural influences of the Spirit of God manifested itself in the prophets."

VERSE ELEVEN: "And he hurled it, saying to himself, I'll pin David to the wall. But David eluded him twice."

- ① Israel
② Zurich

Pearl's
Article

With all this inner seething turmoil that is going on, while David is playing the harp, Saul has allowed jealousy to continue to well up within his heart. And so having conceived this in his mind, he acts by trying twice to kill David with the javelin.

VERSE TWELVE: "Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David, but had left Saul."

(Saul recognizes the words that Samuel had spoken,) and he also recognizes that the success of David's work and ministry, is a direct result of God's blessing upon his life.

VERSE THIRTEEN: "So he sent David away from him, and gave command over a thousand men and David lead the troops in their campaigns."

Delitzsch points out, "In this fear of David on the part of Saul, the true reason for his hostile behavior is pointed out with deep psychological truth. The fear arose from the consciousness that the Lord had departed from him. A consciousness which forced itself involuntarily upon him, and drove him to make the attempt in a fit of madness to put David to death."

The fact that David did not leave Saul, immediately after this attempt upon his life may be explained not merely on the supposition that he looked upon this attack as being simply an outburst of momentary madness, which would pass away but still more from his firm believing confidence which kept him from forsaking the post in which the Lord had placed him, without any act of his own. Until he saw that Saul was plotting to take his life, not merely in these fits of insanity, but also at other times in calm deliberation."

VERSE FOURTEEN: "And everything he did, he had great success because the Lord was with him."

* Joshua 1:8 - "This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, that you shall meditate therein day and night, and be careful to observe all that is written therein; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success."

* Genesis 39:2 and following - "The Lord was with Joseph, and he prospered and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant."

* Genesis 39:21 and following - "The Lord was with him. He showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison. And he was made responsible for all that was done there. The Warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph, and gave him success in whatever he did."

VERSE FIFTEEN: "When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him."

"Don't let the Sun
go down upon
your wrath...
It has formed
A Root of Bitterness!!"

Nothing ever
works out when
the Lord withdraws
his hand
in your
life.

Recovery of
our hostages
I Chron. 7:14

We have already seen this back in Verse Twelve, that Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with David, and had left Saul.

Now the reports are coming in from the military campaigns. And David's success now has increased Saul's fear of him. And all of Israel and Judah have begun to love him as their leader. Whereas David's success is a manifestation of the Lord being with him, Saul's increased fear is a manifestation of the Lord's departure from him.

VERSE SIXTEEN: "But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns."

This is something that Saul has not done in the past, and David is making endearing deep friendships by his involvement with the people.

VERSE SEVENTEEN: "Saul said to David, Here is my older daughter, Merab; I will give her to you in marriage, only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the Lord. For Saul said to himself, I will not raise a hand against him, let the Philistines do that."

You can feel Saul's jealousy growing and rising into greater and greater proportions. And it is making every area of life ugly.

VERSE EIGHTEEN: "But David said to Saul, Who am I and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel, that I should become the king's son-in-law?"

Delitzsch points out, "David replies with true humility without suspecting the craftiness of Saul. David's meaning here, is that neither on personal grounds nor on account of his social standing nor because of his lineage, could he make the slightest pretensions of the honor of becoming the son-in-law of the king."

VERSE NINETEEN: "So when the time came for Merab, Saul's daughter to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah."

For some reason, unbeknownst to us from the record, Saul did not keep his word to David, but Merab was given to someone else.

VERSE TWENTY: "Now Saul's daughter, Michal was in love with David. And when they told Saul about it he was pleased."

Not only does Saul's son Jonathan love David, but also his daughter, Michal now loves him.

McGee points out, "David is now the one who is being accepted by the nation. Saul has been wondering how he could trap him and finally decides upon a clever method. He promises David his daughter Merab, for his wife on the condition that he continue to war with the Philistines, hoping he will be killed in battle. Then he fails to keep faith with David and gives Merab to another. Now, we will see that he wants to give his younger daughter to David. Why? This would put David in the family, where Saul

sent him
into battle
so he would get
killed!!

David had
his eye on
Michal!
She was the
prettiest of
the two!!

could get to him anytime he wanted to. I do not believe David ever loved Michal, we blame David for having several marriages, but he certainly got off to a bad start with this girl."

VERSE TWENTYONE: "I will give her to him, he thought, so that she may be a snare to him. And so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. So Saul said to David, now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law."

Blaikie points out, "Nothing shows a more wicked heart, than being willing to involve another, and especially, ones own child in a life long sorrow in order to gratify some feeling of ones own. Saul was not merely trifling with the heart and happiness of his child, but he was deliberately sacrificng to his vile passion. The longer he lives, Saul becomes blacker and blacker for such are they from whom the Spirit of the Lord is departed."

VERSE TWENTYTWO: "Then Saul ordered his attendants, speak to David privately and say, look. The king is pleased with you and his attendants all like you. Now, become his son-in-law."

Saul is not only working with the affection which his daughter feels toward David but, also getting several of the folks in the court to tell David privately to see that the king is pleased and to encourage him to become the son-in-law.

VERSE TWENTYTHREE: "They repeated these words to David. But David said, Do you think it is a small matter to become the king's son-in-law? I am only a poor man and little known."

VERSE TWENTYFOUR: "When Saul's servants told him what David had said,

VERSE TWENTYFIVE: "Saul replied, Say to David, the king wants no other price for the bride than one hundred Philistine foreskins to take revenge on his enemies. Saul's plan was to have David fall by the hand of the Philistines."

Since David is poor and unable to bring a dowry for the king's daughter Saul now enters upon this ugly and vicious plot to have David killed by trying to accomplish this dowry that Saul is requiring.

VERSE TWENTYSIX: "When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king's son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed,

VERSE TWENTYSEVEN: "David and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines, he brought their foreskins and presented the full number to the king, so that he might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter, Michal in marriage."

David enthusiastically responds with a double dowry, so that the king might see that he is faithful in his commitment.

Yuck! what A Sick mind.

Not only killed them but circumcized two hundred of them!!

Private P.R.
Behind the Scenes

Kill A
100 Philistines

Doubled the
For good
Measure!!

Delitzsch points out, "that David was satisfied with Saul's demands since he had no suspicion of his craftiness and loved Michal. Even before the days were full, before the time appointed for the delivery of the dowry, and for the marriage had arrived, he rose up with his men, smote two hundred Philistines and brought their foreskins which were placed in their full number before the king. Whereupon Saul was obliged to give him Michal his daughter to wife."

VERSE TWENTY EIGHT: "When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David."

Saul recognizes the only explanation for the fact that David is successful is that the Lord is with him and gave him success and protection in the battle. And then that his daughter on top of that, loves David.

VERSE TWENTYNINE: "Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days."

Saul entrenched in his bitter jealousy, seeing his family turn away from him and turn toward David, and seeing the Lord's prosperity and blessing upon David's enterprises; he again falls prey to fear.

Delitzsch points out, "The knowledge of the fact that David has carried out all his enterprises with success had already filled the melancholy king with fear. When the failure of this new plan for devoting David to certain death had forced the conviction upon him that Jehovah was with David, that he was miraculously protected by him. And when in addition to this, there was the love of his daughter, Michal to David, his fear of David grew into a life long enmity. Thus his evil spirit urged him ever forward to greater and greater hardness of heart."

VERSE THIRTY: "The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle and as often as they did, David met with more success than the rest of Saul's officers and his name became well known."

Throughout the continuing campaign, the Lord brought real blessing and success upon David because he is a man after God's own heart.

CONCLUSION: Disobedience Toward God; leads to distortion + destruction of personal relationships.

Rusty Nisseem

What are the lessons we gather from this study?

Lesson Number One: The Lord blesses and prospers those who walk with Him.

Lesson Number Two: David and Jonathan serve as an illustration of Christian brotherhood. Friendship!!

Lesson Number Three: Jealousy short circuits good judgement.

Lesson Number Four: Jealousy and envy will grow (into the intent of murder) if it left unchecked.

Lesson Number Five: David is protected from (the malicious intent of) Saul in every one of these encounters.

When the enemy...

Matt. 5:

1 Peter 2:

Eph. 6:

Jealousy - Bitterness + Resentment
God would have A David + Jonathan
You have A Saul + David.

Do you have a close friend who shares the load...

The strengthening hand of a God-given friend!!

Lord, Your love to me is wonderful Friend that sticks closer than a brother!!