Lesson 70 – David a Fugitive Part I

based on 1 Samuel 18 to 20.

1) What happened to David after the slaying of Goliath?
   1 Samuel 18:2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's _____.
2) Was David well received there?
   1 Samuel 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was _____ with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
   1 Samuel 18:5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself _____: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

Saul at times realized his own unfitness for the government of Israel, and he felt that the kingdom would be more secure if there could be connected with him one who received instruction from the Lord. Saul hoped also that his connection with David would be a safeguard to himself. Since David was favored and shielded by the Lord, his presence might be a protection to Saul when he went out with him to war.

It was the providence of God that had connected David with Saul. David's position at court would give him a knowledge of affairs, in preparation for his future greatness. It would enable him to gain the confidence of the nation. The vicissitudes and hardships which befell him, through the enmity of Saul, would lead him to feel his dependence upon God, and to put his whole trust in Him. And the friendship of Jonathan for David was also of God's providence, to preserve the life of the future ruler of Israel. In all these things God was working out His gracious purposes, both for David and for the people of Israel.

3) Things were going great until what happened one day?
   1 Samuel 18:6-7 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and _____, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his _____ thousands.
4) What was the effect?
   1 Samuel 18:8-9 And Saul was very _____, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul _____ David from that day and forward.

One great defect in the character of Saul was his love of approbation. This trait had had a controlling influence over his actions and thoughts; everything was marked by his desire for praise and self-exaltation. His standard of right and wrong was the low standard of popular applause. No man is safe who lives that he may please men and does not seek first for the approbation of God.

Approbation is a formal noun that means approval, praise, or official sanction.

the king made it evident that he had no true knowledge of the plans or power of God. The monarch of Israel was opposing his will to the will of the Infinite One. Saul had not learned, while ruling the kingdom of Israel, that he should rule his own spirit. He allowed his impulses to control his judgment, until he was plunged into a fury of passion. He had paroxysms of rage, when he was ready to take the life of any who dared oppose his will.

5) What happened the next day?
   1 Samuel 18:10-11 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the _____; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence _____.

David was preserved by the interposition of God, and without injury fled from the rage of the maddened king.

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6) How do we know?
1 Samuel 18:12 And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was _____ him, and was departed from Saul.
7) What did Saul do in order to have David removed from his presence?
1 Samuel 18:13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his _____ over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.
8) How'd that work out?
1 Samuel 18:14-16 And David behaved himself _____ in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah _____ David, because he went out and came in before them.

David's blameless character aroused the wrath of the king; he deemed that the very life and presence of David cast a reproach upon him, since by contrast it presented his own character to disadvantage. It was envy that made Saul miserable and put the humble subject of his throne in jeopardy.

Envy is the offspring of pride, and if it is entertained in the heart, it will lead to hatred, and eventually to revenge and murder.

9) What did Saul offer David in a plot to kill him?
1 Samuel 18:17 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter _____, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the _____ be upon him.
10) Did David take the bait?
1 Samuel 18:18-19 And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the _____? But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto _____ the Meholathite to wife.
11) Was Saul done with that kind of plot?
1 Samuel 18:20-21 And Michal Saul's daughter _____ David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a _____ to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.

Saul laid a challenge to David for the wedding to proceed, that would put David's life in grave danger, and he came through it triumphantly.

12) How'd that work out for Saul?
1 Samuel 18:28-29 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. And Saul was yet the _____ _____ of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.
13) Finally, what did Saul say out loud for everyone to hear?
1 Samuel 19:1 And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should _____ David.

Jonathan revealed the king's intention to David and bade him conceal himself while he would plead with his father to spare the life of the deliverer of Israel. He presented before the king what David had done to preserve the honor and even the life of the nation, and what terrible guilt would rest upon the murderer of the one whom God had used to scatter their enemies. The conscience of the king was touched, and his heart was softened. ***"And Saul sware, As the Lord liveth, he shall not be slain."*** David was brought to Saul, and he ministered in his presence, as he had done in the past.

14) Was Saul done trying to kill David?
1 Samuel 19:10 And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin _____ the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

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1 Samuel 19:11-12 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to _____ him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain. So Michal let David down through a _____: and he went, and fled, and escaped.

Michal informed David of the purpose of her father. She urged him to flee for his life, and let him down from the window, thus enabling him to make his escape. He fled to Samuel at Ramah, and the prophet, fearless of the king's displeasure, welcomed the fugitive. The home of Samuel was a peaceful place in contrast with the royal palace. It was here, amid the hills, that the honored servant of the Lord continued his work. A company of seers was with him, and they studied closely the will of God and listened reverently to the words of instruction that fell from the lips of Samuel. Precious were the lessons that David learned from the teacher of Israel.

15) Saul heard of David's location and sent a posse to retrieve him, what happened?
1 Samuel 19:20 And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also _____.

The messengers went on their way, intent upon taking David's life; but One greater than Saul controlled them. They were met by unseen angels, as was Balaam when he was on his way to curse Israel. They began to utter prophetic sayings of what would occur in the future and proclaimed the glory and majesty of Jehovah. Thus, God overruled the wrath of man and manifested His power to restrain evil, while He walled in His servant by a guard of angels.

This happened multiple times…

16) Frustrated by his minions, Saul went searching for David himself. What did Saul do at the house of Samuel the Prophet?
1 Samuel 19:24 And he stripped off his clothes also, and _____ before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?

An angel of God met him on the way and controlled him. The Spirit of God held him in Its power, and he went forward uttering prayers to God, interspersed with predictions and sacred melodies. He prophesied of the coming Messiah as the world's Redeemer. When he came to the prophet's home in Ramah, he laid aside the outer garments that betokened his rank, and all day and all night he lay before Samuel and his pupils, under the influence of the divine Spirit. The people were drawn together to witness this strange scene, and the experience of the king was reported far and wide. Thus again, near the close of his reign, it became a proverb in Israel that Saul also was among the prophets.

At this time Saul gave up the hunt for David's life… …or so he said…

17) Searching for answers, what did he ask Jonathan?
1 Samuel 20:1 And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I _____? what is mine iniquity? and what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

Jonathan believed that his father had changed his purpose and no longer intended to take the life of David.

18) What did he tell David?
1 Samuel 20:2 And he said unto him, God _____; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? it is not so.
19) Did David believe him?
1 Samuel 20:3 And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found _____ in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a _____ between me and death.

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At the time of the new moon a sacred festival was celebrated in Israel. This festival recurred upon the day following the interview between David and Jonathan. At this feast it was expected that both the young men would appear at the king's table; but David feared to be present, and it was arranged that he should visit his brothers in Bethlehem. On his return he was to hide himself in a field not far from the banqueting hall, for three days absenting himself from the presence of the king; and Jonathan would note the effect upon Saul. If inquiry should be made as to the whereabouts of the son of Jesse, Jonathan was to say that he had gone home to attend the sacrifice offered by his father's household. If no angry demonstrations were made by the king, but he should answer, ***"It is well,"*** then it would be safe for David to return to the court. But if he should become enraged at his absence, it would decide the matter of David's flight.

On the first day of the feast the king made no inquiry concerning the absence of David.

20) What happened on the second day?
1 Samuel 20:27 And it came to pass on the morrow, which was the second day of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither _____, nor to day?

21) What was Jonathan's reply?
1 Samuel 20:28 And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked leave of me to go to _____:

22) Was Saul buying the excuse?
1 Samuel 20:30-31 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse _____ woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion… …For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy _____. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

23) What did Jonathan respond with?
1 Samuel 20:32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be _____? what hath he done?

When Saul heard these words, his anger was ungovernable. He declared that as long as David lived, Jonathan could not come to the throne of Israel. This appeal to the king only made him more satanic in his fury, and the spear which he had intended for David he now hurled at his own son.

The prince was grieved and indignant, and leaving the royal presence, he was no more a guest at the feast. His soul was bowed down with sorrow as he repaired at the appointed time to the spot where David was to learn the king's intentions toward him.

24) What were Jonathan's last words to David?
1 Samuel 20:42 And Jonathan said to David, Go in _____, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

More to come in the next lesson…

Can you see things don't always appear to be working for your good, but God is?

Would you like be safe in the arms of Christ?

When is it time to humble yourself before the LORD?

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