Lesson 72 – The Magnanimity of David Part I

based on 1 Samuel 22:20- 23.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   1 Samuel 22:18-19 And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the _____, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the _____, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.
2) Who escaped?
   1 Samuel 22:20-21 And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named _____, escaped, and fled after David. And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests.
3) What did David tell him?
   1 Samuel 22:22-23 And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the _____ of all the persons of thy father's house. Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me _____ shalt be in safeguard.
4) What happened shortly thereafter?
   1 Samuel 23:1-4 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors. herefore David _____ of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah. And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines? Then David enquired of the LORD yet _____. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

Still hunted by the king, David found no place of rest or security. At Keilah his brave band saved the town from capture by the Philistines, but they were not safe, even among the people whom they had delivered. From Keilah they repaired to the wilderness of Ziph.

5) How does the Bible record it?
   1 Samuel 23:15 And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of _____ in a wood.
6) Who sought him out while in hiding?
   1Samuel 23:16-18 And _____ Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be _____ over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth. And they two made a _____ before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

At this time, when there were so few bright spots in the path of David, he was rejoiced to receive an unexpected visit from Jonathan, who had learned the place of his refuge. Precious were the moments which these two friends passed in each other's society. They related their varied experiences, and Jonathan strengthened the heart of David.

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7) Encouraged, what did David write at this time?
Psalm 11:1-5 In the LORD put I my _____: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain? For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart. If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. The LORD _____ the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.
8) Who betrayed David at this time?
1 Samuel 23:19-20 Then came up the _____ to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon? Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of thy soul to come down; and our part shall be to _____ him into the king's hand.

David, warned of their intentions, changed his position, seeking refuge in the mountains between Maon and the Dead Sea.

Saul was on his way to get David, but God intervened. A battle broke out with the Philistines and after that, Saul resumed his hunt for David giving him time to set up camp somewhere else.

9) What was told Saul?
1 Samuel 24:1 And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of _____.
10) How big was Saul's army at this time?
1 Samuel 24:2 Then Saul took _____ thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

David had only six hundred men in his company, while Saul advanced against him with an army of three thousand. In a secluded cave the son of Jesse and his men waited for the guidance of God as to what should be done. As Saul was pressing his way up the mountains, he turned aside, and entered, alone, the very cavern in which David and his band were hidden.

11) What happened?
1 Samuel 24:3 And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a _____; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.
1 Samuel 24:4-5 And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine _____ into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the _____ of Saul's robe privily. And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.
12) Did David feel bad afterward?
1 Samuel 24:6-7 And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my _____, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD. So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to _____ against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

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When David's men saw this they urged their leader to kill Saul. The fact that the king was now in their power was interpreted by them as certain evidence that God Himself had delivered the enemy into their hand, that they might destroy him. David was tempted to take this view of the matter; but the voice of conscience spoke to him, saying, ***"Touch not the anointed of the Lord."***

Saul rose up and went out of the cave to continue his search, when a voice fell upon his startled ears.

13) Who spoke to him?

1 Samuel 24:8-9 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and _____ after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and _____ himself. And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?
1 Samuel 24:10-11 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me _____ thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed. Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my _____: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.
1 Samuel 24:12-15 The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be _____ thee. As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea. The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and _____ me out of thine hand.

When Saul heard the words of David, he was humbled and could not but admit their truthfulness. His feelings were deeply moved as he realized how completely he had been in the power of the man whose life he sought. David stood before him in conscious innocence.

14) What did Saul concede?

1 Samuel 24:16-17 And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. And he said to David, Thou art more _____ than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee _____.
1 Samuel 18-19 And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me _____. For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee _____ for that thou hast done unto me this day.
1 Samuel 24:20-21 And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be _____, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand. Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my _____ after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house.

Knowing what he did of Saul's past course, David could put no confidence in the assurances of the king, nor hope that his penitent condition would long continue. So, when Saul returned to his home David remained in the strongholds of the mountains.

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15) What happened shortly after this meeting of Saul and David?
1 Samuel 25:1 And _____ died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

The death of Samuel was regarded as an irreparable loss by the nation of Israel. A great and good prophet and an eminent judge had fallen in death, and the grief of the people was deep and heartfelt. From his youth up Samuel had walked before Israel in the integrity of his heart; although Saul had been the acknowledged king, Samuel had wielded a more powerful influence than he, because his record was one of faithfulness, obedience, and devotion. We read that he judged Israel all the days of his life.

16) How important is the power and presence of the righteous?
James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man _____ much.

As the people contrasted the course of Saul with that of Samuel, they saw what a mistake they had made in desiring a king that they might not be different from the nations around them. Many looked with alarm at the condition of society, fast becoming leavened with irreligion and godlessness. The example of their ruler was exerting a widespread influence, and well might Israel mourn that Samuel, the prophet of the Lord, was dead.

It was Samuel who had taught them to love and obey God; but now that he was dead, the people felt that they were left to the mercies of a king who was joined to Satan, and who would divorce the people from God and heaven.

17) What did David write in his heartfelt sorrow for the loss of Samuel?
Psalms 121:2-5 My help cometh from the LORD, which _____ heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not _____. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is thy _____: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.
Psalms 121:6-8 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall _____ thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for _____.

Saul wasn't done trying to remove David, more to come…

Can you see it's better to do the right thing the first time?

Would you like be safe in the arms of Christ?

When is it time to humble yourself before the LORD?

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