

After God's Heart

Lesson 3

1 Samuel 18-20

January 20, 2019

Every Crutch Removed

Introduction

David's fame is rising, while Saul's mental faculties and relationships are faltering. The spirit of God has departed from Saul, and his decisions are taking a downward spiral. God never commits evil, but He may use circumstances, whether nature, human actions or allowing trials in a person's life to accomplish His good and wise purposes. We cannot blame Saul's suffering on God's punishment; sin has thoroughly invaded, and sickness of every kind has infiltrated our world. David is one in spirit with God, and it is evident in these stories. David shows the love of the future Christ by serving Saul and loving God's people. We know the character and love of God and can see it in these Old Testament stories. The question is, how can you relate to these characters, whether good or bad and what can we take away from these stories to grow in our relationship with God?

Memory verse: "After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathon three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most."—1 Samuel 20:41

Pray and read 1 Samuel 18-20. What questions or observations do you have about the passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What did Jonathan give to David after making a covenant with him? (1 Samuel 18:4)
2. Why did David have great success in everything he did? (1 Samuel 18:14)
3. What oath did Saul make to Jonathan regarding David? (1 Samuel 19:6)
4. What happened to Saul's men when they stood before Samuel and the prophets in Naioth at Ramah? (1 Samuel 19:20-21)
5. At what feast was David to dine with the king? (1 Samuel 20:5)
6. Did Saul intend to kill David or to spare David's life? (1 Samuel 20:30-32)

What does the passage mean?

1. Saul started his kingship strong in the Lord: obedient and had the Spirit of God dwelling inside of him. What happened to Saul to cause this drastic change, and what might be the reasons it occurred? (Deuteronomy 28:15, 28; 1 Samuel 15:16-29)
2. God's spirit left Saul, and an evil spirit came to torment him. Does this mean that God abandoned Saul as a person? Did he leave Saul as the chosen leader of Israel, giving it next to David? Why? (1 Samuel 13:13-14, 15:26-29, 16:12-13)
3. What is the difference between Saul and David? Why do you think the people are attracted to David more than Saul? (1 Samuel 16:13-14; 2 Samuel 9:1; Psalm 119:34)

4. Jonathan and David were like brothers. What part does friendship and accountability play in the Christian faith? (Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Applying the Passage

1. The Israelites expected their king to solve all of their problems. God warned them of what would happen if a king took over, yet gave them what they think they needed. In what areas are you putting your faith in humans, and not the eternal God? Are there any areas in your life that need to change to make God king?

