

Wheelersburg Baptist Church , Wednesday PM 5/30/07

1 Samuel 19 “When the World Seems Out to Get You”[\[1\]](#)

Series: “*Learning to Wait on God: The Life of David Before He Became King*”

1 Samuel 16-31

Think about it: Have you ever felt like the world was against you? If so, what did you learn about yourself, about life, and about God during that experience?

Tonight, we're going to watch David when it seemed like the world was against him. It was not the last time he would feel this way.

Review: The Setting:

--Saul has been rejected as king because of his rebellion (ch 15)

--David has been chosen to be king (ch 16)

--1 Samuel 18 "How God Prepares a King" (last week)

God used adversity to prepare David to lead His people. Tonight, we'll see more adversity.

Tonight: Three episodes in David's life...

I. Jonathan & David (1-7)

A. Jonathan with David (1-3)

Q: What did Saul ask Jonathan to do? V 1 Kill David

Q: Why did Saul make such a request? See 18:9

Q: Saul's request created an ethical dilemma for Jonathan. Why? To dishonor one's father is a sin. So is murder. What do you do if there is a tension between two commands of God? (see Acts 4:18-20)

eg--Suppose you were hiding Jews in your home during a Nazi raid in WWII

Q: What did Jonathan do? Vv 2-3 Tried to persuade his father to change his mind about David (note: Jonathan never became disrespectful towards his parents)

Application: What about anti-abortion militants who kill doctors?

B. Jonathan with his father, Saul (4-6)

Q: What did Jonathan point out to his father about David? Several compliments...

--he hasn't sinned against you (4)

--he's done good for you (4)

--The Lord was in his life when he slew the Philistine (5)

Q: What did Jonathan help his father to see about his plan to kill David? V 5 To kill David would be to shed "innocent blood."

Q: What kind of impact did Jonathan's words have on his father? V 6

C. Jonathan helps reconcile Saul to David (7)

Jonathan was a peacemaker.

Discuss: What can we learn from Jonathan's example about being a peacemaker? What lessons does he give us about helping to reconcile people who are at odds?

II. Saul & David (8-17)

Saul's change didn't last.

Q: What event triggered his animosity?

--David's further success in battle (8)

--Evil spirit from the Lord (9)

Q: What course of action did Saul take? Two murder attempts...

A. Saul tries to kill him with a spear (8-10).

Q: What does v 10 remind you of? The javelin in 18:10

The text says that David "eluded him" and "made good his escape." This is the third time. Remember, Saul is a skillful warrior. Is it mere coincidence that he missed three times? No. Who is active behind the scenes in this story? God is. Just like He is behind the unfolding scenes of drama in our lives.

B. Saul sends his men to kill him (11-17).

Q: What were Saul's instructions? V 11 Watch him and kill him.

1. Michal protects David (11-14).

Q: Who was Michal? Saul's daughter (18:27), and Jonathan's sister.

Q: What did Michal do? Vv 12-14 (let him down through a window, put a replica in his bed, lied to protect him).

Q: What did Saul do next? V 15 Told his messengers to bring him bed and all!

2. Michal protects herself (15-17).

Q: Why did Michal say she lied to her father's men? V 17 Claimed David threatened her. Was that true? Not according to v 11 (It was Michal's idea in the first place!)

Note: It was out of this experience that David wrote Psalm 59, as we discussed two Sundays ago in our current series on the Psalms of David.

Think about this insight by Dale Ralph Davis: "Sometimes the clearest evidence that God has not deserted you is not that you are successfully past your trial but that you are still on your feet in the middle of it."[\[2\]](#)

III. Samuel & David (18-24)

A. David at Ramah (18)

Q: Why did he go to Samuel? He anointed him, and was a godly man. Ramah was Samuel's hometown.

B. Saul's men at Ramah (19-21)

1. Sent to capture David

Q: Did they succeed? No...

2. Ended up acting like prophets! (three times!)

B.K.C. suggests that this means "to act like prophets" (i.e. fall into a trance or ecstatic state, a condition which immobilized them from accomplishing their evil intent).

C. Saul himself at Ramah (22-24)

1. Spirit of God came upon him

2. Saul acted like a prophet.

Q: What other time did God allow Saul to act like a prophet? The first time signaled God's choosing of him as king (10:6). This time signals God's rejection.

3. *Saul stripped off his royal robes, and lay there all day.*

Not a very dignified description of a king.

At first glance, it seems as if it's David against the world, but really, it's Saul against the world. Who are David's allies against Saul? Jonathan, Michal, Samuel, but most of all, God.

Discuss: What's the purpose of this story?

Think about it: Dale Ralph Davis observes, "I can be confident that God will keep me until whatever he has ordained for me to be or to do is accomplished."[\[3\]](#)

It's interesting to see the variety God demonstrated in this chapter in protecting David. He uses all kinds of measures to preserve David's life:

--Jonathan's talk with Saul (4-7)

--made sure Saul's spear hit the wall rather than David's heart (10)

--used Michal's efforts to deliver David safely out a window (12)

--caused Saul's men and Saul himself to prophesy (18-24)

Dale Ralph Davis concludes, "Shaddai's shadow is there but in a refreshing variety of ways and instruments. The means and methods of deliverance reflect the imagination of the Deliverer."[\[4\]](#)

To do: Think of the variety of ways God has protected you in your life...

Lessons:

1. God's program is certain. Therefore we can trust Him.
2. It's not always easy to serve God.
3. Loyalty to God supersedes any other loyalty (including family--see Jonathan).

[\[1\]](#) These are unedited teaching notes used initially for a Wednesday evening Bible study at Wheelersburg Baptist Church . They are provided for your edification as you personally study God's life-changing Word. Pastor Brad Brandt

[\[2\]](#) Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel*, p. 162.

[\[3\]](#) Davis , p. 163.

[4] Davis , p. 163.