

Escaping To The School Of The Prophets (1 Sam. 19:1-24)

Saul Orders David Slain (1 Sam. 19:1-7)

1 Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David. 2 So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide. 3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father about you. Then what I observe, I will tell you."

4 Thus Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been very good toward you. 5 For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?"

6 So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed." 7 Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things. So Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as in times past.

- Saul finally verbalizes his murderous desire. When David's life becomes known to him, Jonathan comes to David's defense. This shows Jonathan's godly character, and shows us how to help those who are wrongly accused.

- The text first says that Jonathan spoke well of him. When we hear something about another person, how do we react?
- The next thing Jonathan does is appeal to the king not to sin.
- Notice that Saul had lost the ability to be objective about the situation. We can't change our attitude towards someone based on hearsay or our own subjective feelings that someone is a threat.
- Saul was about to shed innocent blood. Jonathan says, "Look, you are about to kill David without a cause." Do I really *have a cause* to feel the way I do against people? Christians today have been crippled by the power of offense.
- Jesus said that *because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.* (Matt. 24:12) Forgiveness is an essential for believers, especially in these last days.
- Saul has enough sanity left to heed Jonathan's voice, at least this one time. Saul seems to be completely sincere, as he swears by the very life of Yahweh.
- David displays a wonderful character again. In spite of everything, he is content to trust in God and he goes back into the lion's den.

A False Promise Of Normalcy (1 Sam. 19:8-10)

8 And there was war again; and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a mighty blow, and they fled from him.

9 Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand. 10 Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night.

- David is very effective in fighting the Philistines. Now they are fleeing not from Saul, nor even from Yahweh, but from David himself.
- See Saul sitting with a spear in his hand. This symbolizes a critical and murderous spirit. Christian believers shouldn't listen to people, or observe their ministry, with a spear at the ready.
- Saul is persecuting David on and off, but notice that still David ministers to him.
- At this latest attempt to spear him, David is able to slip away again. However, this time he seems to realize that he needs to escape in order to save his life. Why? Saul has no fear of God whatsoever. His oath to Yahweh was meaningless.
- Now that Saul has violated his strong oath, and taken God's Name in vain, we can see a definitive change in him, and in the situation. From now on, David will not be safe, and he will be on the run for years.

Assassination Attempt (1 Sam. 19:11-18)

11 Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." 12 So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped. 13 And Michal took an image and laid it in the bed, put a cover of goats' hair for his head, and covered it with clothes. 14 So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick." 15 Then Saul sent the messengers back to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." 16 And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats' hair for his head. 17 Then Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?'"

18 So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.

- Saul sends out spies but Michal is able to discern what's really happening. Notice that Saul has no qualms about breaking into his daughter's house.
- David goes to about the only safe place he can think of, to the one person that he might have figured Saul was unlikely to attack.
- Saul has already gone so far into sin that he will have no problem killing Samuel or killing priests and prophets. Samuel was already able to discern that within his heart, Saul was already a murderer.
- What is Naioth? It means *tents*, or *living places*, or *rooms*. This could have been the beginning of the school of the prophets in Israel.
- David himself was a prophet: *11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; 12 and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things; 13 also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the articles of service in the house of the LORD... 19 "All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans."* (See 1 Chron. 28:11-19)
- Did David grow in his prophetic ministry while he was at Naioth?

God’s Power At Work (1 Sam. 19:19-21)

19 Now it was told Saul, saying, “Take note, David is at Naioth in Ramah!” 20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. 21 And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.

- David gets sold out, as he often would be!
- Saul sends a squad of men to take David in, and we see the school of the prophets in operation. The messengers are overcome by the Presence of God.
- Can someone come under such an influence, even if they have no intention of participating in what God is doing? There are many examples in history where people come under the influence of the Holy Spirit just by being in the vicinity of the Holy Spirit’s activity.

Thoughts From Charles Finney

This power is a great marvel. I have many times seen people unable to endure the Word. The most simple and ordinary statements would cut men off their seats like a sword, would take away their strength, and render them almost helpless as dead men. Several times it has been true in my experience that I could not raise my voice, or say anything in prayer or exhortation, except in the mildest manner, without overcoming them. (Cont’d on next page.)

This power seems sometimes to pervade the atmosphere of the one who is highly charged with it. Many times great numbers of person in a community will be clothed with this power when the very atmosphere of the whole place seems to be charged with the life of God, Strangers coming into it and passing through the place will be instantly smitten with conviction of sin and in many instances covered to Christ.

Is Saul Also Among The Prophets? (1 Sam. 19:22-24)

22 Then he also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is at Sechu. So he asked, and said, “Where are Samuel and David?” And someone said, “Indeed they are at Naioth in Ramah.” 23 So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. 24 And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

- Saul himself now comes and experiences the same fate as the men he sent.
- “Naked” here may just mean that he stripped off his robes. This would be powerful symbolism!
