

David and the Family of Saul

Text: I Samuel 18:1, 2

As we come to the climax of David's great victory over Goliath, we observe three things. First, David brings the head of Goliath to Saul, which is an act of loyalty, acknowledging Saul as the rightful king at this time. Having received the anointing as the future king, David appreciates the blessing and authority that he has and is destined to receive, however, he does not usurp the authority of Saul. Twice David had the opportunity to take the life of Saul, as Saul was pursuing David to take his life, but David spared him (I Samuel 24:5, 6; I Samuel 26:8, 9). I Samuel 26:23: "The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed." The greatest king of Israel would not take vengeance in his hand, but left that in the Lord's hand. And even when the Lord permanently delivered David from the hand of Saul, David respected the authority that God had at one time given Saul by executing the Amalekite that bragged about taking the life of the rogue King Saul (II Samuel 1:14-16).

Secondly, we see that although David brought the head of Goliath to Saul, he took Goliath's armor to his own tent. It appears that David wanted to save a reminder to himself that any enemy that comes against him and Israel will have no defense. Isaiah 54:17: "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." Later we observe that the sword of Goliath is hidden in the Tabernacle of the Lord, behind the ephod. I suggest David surrendered Goliath's sword soon after the victory to acknowledge that God gave the victory and it was not his place to take that honor. I Samuel 17:47: "And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands."

Thirdly, Saul inquires about the father of David. He wanted to know the name of this valiant young hero's dad (I Samuel 17:56-58). Here's what we know about Jesse. I Samuel 17:12: "Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul." Jesse was a man's man! No doubt the manliness of Jesse made an indelible impression on his eighth son, because as David was close to death he made this statement to his son Solomon, the next king: "I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man" (I Kings 2:2). In a day when our wicked culture encourages young men to abdicate their manhood, God's word makes much of the value of a true man. Saul's inquiring of who David's father is reminds us of Proverbs 22:1: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold" and Ecclesiastes 7:1: "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth." A good reminder to all of us as parents and grandparents is to ask ourselves what kind of

legacy we are leaving our children. Paul said in II Corinthians 12:14b, "...for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children." This is so much more than speaking of material things; in the context, Paul was talking about a spiritual legacy. Parents, are you laying up a good name that is synonymous with a life that is abandoned to God and His will? Are you laying up a good name that speaks of honesty, integrity, loyalty, courage and unconditional love? David gave this testimony in Psalm 16:6: "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." We should leave a "goodly heritage" within the lines of Galatians 5:22, 23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Paul had a serious concern that is expressed in I Corinthians 9:27: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." It is true that a believer can backslide and lose great reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ (I Corinthians 3:11-15). On the other hand, it needs to be said that the good that was done would be remembered by God. A good example of this was after Samson's sin brought him down and the Philistines were being entertained through his demise, Samson prayed in Judges 16:28, "...O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes." And the Lord remembered him, quite evidently as seen in Judges 16:30b: "...So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life."

I. THE COMMENDATION OF SAUL

- A. Saul was chosen: I Samuel 9:2, 17; I Samuel 10:1.
- B. Saul was humble: I Samuel 9:21; I Samuel 10:22; I Samuel 15:17
- C. Saul was a prophet: I Samuel 10:6, 9,10, 12
- D. Saul had God given leadership: I Samuel 10:26; I Samuel 11;13, 14
- E. Saul was married to only one woman: I Samuel 14:50
- F. Saul was a courageous warrior: II Samuel 1:23, 27

II. THE WIFE OF DAVID

- A. Michal loved David: I Samuel 18:28b: "...Michal Saul's daughter loved him."
- B. Michal saved David's life: I Samuel 19:11-18
- C. Michal was David's first love: II Samuel 19:13, 14

III. THE FRIEND OF DAVID

I Samuel 18:1: "And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul."

Knit is defined: to make something by interlocking loops of yarn with knitting needles; to make something by interlocking loops of yarn with knitting needles; to grow together, as broken bones; become intimately united: knit in a friendship; grow together as broken bone; become intimately united.

- A. David and Jonathan were knit by a father's choice: I Samuel 18:2
- B. David and Jonathan were knit by covenant: I Samuel I Samuel 18:3
- C. David and Jonathan were knit by gifts: I Samuel 18:4
 - 1. Jonathan gave David his throne: The robe was a royal symbol of the throne.
 - 2. Jonathan gave David his garments: The garments were Jonathan's medals of honor.
 - 3. Jonathan gave to David his sword: The sword was recognizing David as the Commander and Chief.
 - 4. Jonathan gave to David his bow: This was Jonathan's prized possession.
 - 5. Jonathan gave to David his girdle: This held everything together and was the closest thing to Jonathan. In essence Jonathan was saying to David, take it all! All that I have! All that I am!

For the rest of Jonathan's life, he remained best friends with David.

This was exemplified in David's dark hours. I Samuel 23:16: "And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God."

At Jonathan's death, David gave this lamentation in II Samuel 1:26: "I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women." In the sad, sick, sinful culture of today, it is difficult to appreciate the heart-felt, but totally wholesomeness of this commendation.

God intends for one man to be married to one woman. When that one flesh union is enjoyed and kept sacred, there is no earthy love that can surpass it. David lost his first love, Michal. The next marriages to Abigail, Ahinoam, Maacah, Haggith, Abital and Eglah took place while David was in exile. You might say David was looking for love in all the wrong places, to fulfill the lonely longing of his heart. David's final wife was Bathsheba. Over one thousand years after David's death, the Bible records: Matthew 1:6:b. "...and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias." God forgave David, but we are informed in 1 Kings 15:5, "Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that He commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite."

The one constant relationship that had no extenuating circumstances and dark shadows was the everlasting friendship with Jonathan. Sixteen years after Jonathan's death, the Bible documents the never dying covenant love of David. II Samuel 9:1: "And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" The Bible has much to say of the value of a friend: Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 18:24; Proverbs 27:10, 17; Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10.

Of all the wives of David, only one wife was recorded to have loved David and that was Michal, David's first love. As a matter of fact, it was recorded twice (I Samuel 18:20, 28). It is well to keep in mind that even though the house of Saul warred against the house of David, Michal and Jonathan, the children of Saul were quite significant in saving David's life.