

David Walks the Minefields of Life

Text: I Samuel 20:1-3; Psalm 37:23-27

On January 15, 1997 Princess Diana stepped out onto an active minefield in Angola to aid in the call for an international ban on landmines. Twenty-five years later, Prince Harry, her son walked the same minefield to reminisce and serve the same purpose as his mother. Now in transparency, the fields had been cleared so although there was still danger (thus the reason for the protective gear) it was not as dangerous as it could have been. The real dangers that the mother and son experienced were the emotional and spiritual landmines that had the potential of devastation for themselves and their family.

Last week we discussed David and his relationship to Saul's family. He gave King Saul the honor he did not deserve. He developed a friendship and covenant with Jonathan that lived beyond their lives. And David found the one woman that expressed love for him, who even jeopardized her own safety to ensure his.

Now the next few days and months of David's life become a whirlwind of death threats, near misses and confusion. David now walks through the minefield of life that, unless handled by faith and a deep relationship with the Lord, threatens to devastate and bring to an end the hopes and dreams of himself and his country.

I. WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

I Samuel 19:1, 4-6, 10

One of the more difficult paths we must step through is the comprehension that we must navigate through life full of hazards, even when we are doing the right things. First, it needs to be said what is told us in Romans 3:12: "They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Secondly, we receive righteousness through our Lord and Savior. I Corinthians 1:30, 31: "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." We give glory to God alone for the goodness in our lives. Nonetheless, we are responsible to take the initiative to live holy lives (Romans 6:12, 13).

With God's help we should live right and do right. Psalm 37:3a: "Trust in the LORD, and do good..." We now come to a point in David's life when he is trying to do the right things, but he is hemmed in with complications. This is a good time to talk about reasons for the complicated trials. What is the purpose for trials?

A. God uses trials to purify His own people.

Hebrews 12:9-11. Let's notice especially the last words in verse 11: "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Our Lord said in Revelation 3:19, "As many as I love, I

rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” Malachi 3:2b: “...He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap.”

B. God uses trials to separate believers from pretenders.

I John 2:19: “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

C. God uses trials to get us to take our eyes off this present world and place them on the hereafter.

Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 11:24-27; Hebrews 12:2; II Corinthians 5:10: “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

II. WHEN GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO BAD PEOPLE

I Samuel 19:17-24

Saul is now behaving erratically. He sends two groups of assassins to deal with David, but both groups go into a prophetic mode. Then Saul goes to take David’s life but then he prophesies. Saul even enters a prolonged prophesy with deep humility. Why does God allow good things to happen to bad people?

A. God in His kindness uses His goodness to bring repentance.

Romans 2:4: “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”

B. God uses good things to remove excuses.

I Samuel 26:17-25

Romans 1:17-22

C. God uses good things in spite of evil people to show that He will not be usurped.

Balaam, in a similar fashion to Saul, was an ungodly prophet who prophesied the coming of the Messiah (Numbers 24:1-17).

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown says of I Samuel 19:24 that Saul prophesies and lies down naked, “that is, divested of his armor and outer robes—in a state of trance. Thus God, in making the wrath of man to praise Him (Psalm 76:10), preserved the lives of all the prophets, frustrated all the purposes of Saul, and preserved the life of His servant.”

III. GOD’S SERVANTS’ RESPONSE WHEN CONFRONTING THE MINEFIELDS

I Samuel 21:1-15; I Samuel 19; 8,9

A. How not to walk the minefield:

1. David lies and places others in danger.

I Samuel 21:1-9

2. David flees to the enemy making a fool of himself.

I Samuel 21:10-15

B. How to walk the minefield:

1. Keep fighting the good fight.

I Samuel 19:8; II Timothy 2:3-5

2. Keep your song.

I Samuel 19:9

II Chronicles 20:22: "And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten."

C. Continue to do right, considering how life ends:

Psalm 73:3-17

Psalm 37:34-37

Proverbs 4:18: "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

Conclusion:

Meditate over I Peter 2:20-25. Underline I Peter 2:23: "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously."

Our Heavenly Father knows what is best for us. In C. S. Lewis' book, *The Problem of Pain*, he wrote: "We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world....No doubt pain as God's megaphone is a terrible instrument; it may lead to final and unrepented rebellion. But it gives the only opportunity the bad man can have for amendment. it removes the veil; it plants the flag of truth within the fortress of the rebel soul."

-Pastor Pope-