



SAUL AND DAVID 2
Lesson 3 - 1 Samuel 22-31

What happened before?

David, the shepherd, was chosen to be Israel's new king and was anointed by Samuel. David killed Goliath, but that was only the first of many victories. He became very popular with the people. King Saul was so jealous of David that he made several attempts to kill him. David fled from the presence of King Saul and went to the village of Nob where the priest Ahimelech lived. The priest gave David food and Goliath's sword.

BIBLE STORY:

When Saul's servant, Doeg, told him that Ahimelech had given David food and also Goliath's sword, he had the priests of Nob put to death. Then he ordered that the city of Nob and all its inhabitants be destroyed. Only Abiathar, the son of Ahimelech, escaped and fled to David. Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the Lord's priest.

David went from one place to another hiding in the mountains, and woods and caves. Everywhere he went Saul followed after him with his 3,000 soldiers. Once, David and his men were hiding inside a cave at En Gedi when Saul went into the very same cave. He did not know that David and his men were already there. While Saul was in the cave, David secretly slipped up to him and cut off part of his robe. After Saul left the cave, David felt very bad about what he had done. David went out to the entrance of the cave and called after Saul. David asked him why he was hunting him; he told him he was not his enemy. To prove that he did not want to harm Saul, David held up the part of the robe he had cut off. David would not kill the man who had been chosen by God to be king. Saul told David he was sorry for the way he had treated him. Before Saul went back home he told David, "And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand."

About this time Samuel died. Samuel had been faithful to God as he fulfilled his duties as judge and prophet. The people mourned him and buried him at Ramah.

David went down to the wilderness of Paran. During sheep-shearing time, David and his men protected the shepherds of a very rich man named Nabal who had his flock on the pastures of Carmel. Nabal was a descendant of Caleb. Nabal's wife, Abigail, was intelligent and beautiful, but Nabal was mean and stingy. His own wife realized he was a fool both

by nature and name. (The name Nabal meant “fool.”) David and his men were very hungry, so David sent ten of his men with a friendly greeting to ask Nabal for food. Nabal refused. David became angry that Nabal would not help him after he and his men had protected his shepherds. He told his men to prepare for battle and vowed that every man of Nabal’s house would die.

Meanwhile, Abigail’s servant told her what her husband had done. She hurriedly (without Nabal’s knowledge) gathered together all kinds of food to give to David. When she met David she acknowledged him as the champion who fought the battles of the Lord, and as the future leader of Israel. She made a great impression on David. Because Abigail gave him the presents, he sent her home in safety, accepting her gift and thanking her for what she had done. David decided not to attack the men of Nabal. When Abigail told Nabal what she had done, his heart died within him, and in ten days, he died. David married Abigail.

After awhile, Saul was on David’s trail again. Saul and his army were camped not far from David. David’s captain, Abishai, volunteered to go with him and the two of them slipped past the guards and into the middle of Saul’s camp. Saul was asleep with his spear stuck in the ground close to his head. His captain, Abner and all the people were lying around him. Abishai wanted to kill Saul right there, but David said no. He had not come there to kill Saul. David said that he would not take the life of God’s anointed king.

David and Abishai took the king’s spear and the jug of water that belonged to Saul. They crept off into the night, without waking anyone. When they had reached the safety of the mountaintop, David called out to Abner. Startled by this interruption in the dead of night, the captain cries, “Who are you, calling out to the king?” David did not answer the question; rather, he taunted Abner, “Aren’t you a brave man? There’s no one in Israel like you! How come you did not keep close watch over your king? Someone has been in your camp; see if you can find the king’s spear and the jug of water that was at his head. You have not kept watch over your master and you deserve to die!”

David told Saul that he was not his enemy. When Saul realized that David could have killed him and did not, he confessed, “I have sinned I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.” Once again he promised David that he would not hurt him, but David knew by now that he could not trust Saul.

Meanwhile, Saul was worried about the Philistines. He cried out to the Lord for an answer as to what he should do, but the Lord did not speak to Saul. Since the Lord did not tell him what to do, he decided to consult a medium. A medium was a person who claimed to be able to talk to the dead, but they are unable to. They are all fakes. Saul wanted

to hear from Samuel. (Samuel had died some time ago.) God caused the spirit of Samuel to speak when the medium called him. She was shocked at this, because she knew she was a fake; nothing like this had happened to her before. Samuel told Saul that God had torn the kingdom from him. Samuel told Saul, "Tomorrow, you and your sons will be with me." This meant that tomorrow they would be dead! Saul's heart was stricken; the end was near!

There was another battle between the Philistines and Saul's army, the Philistines fought hard against Israel and the men of Israel fled. The Philistines followed after Saul, and they killed his sons, Jonathan, Abinadab and Melchishua. Saul was hit by an archer's arrow and was severely wounded. When he saw that he could not possibly escape, he asked his armor bearer to kill him so that it could not be said that he was killed by Gentiles. The armor bearer would not do it, so Saul killed himself by falling on his own sword. The armor bearer then fell on his own sword so that he would die with his king. The Philistines beheaded Saul and hung his body, and the bodies of his sons, on a wall. After some time passed, valiant men of Israel recovered their bodies and buried them at Jabesh. It was a sad ending for a career and life that began with so much promise.