

David Spares Saul's life

Scripture: 1 Samuel 24, 26

Memory Verse: If you love me, you will keep my commandments. John 14:15

Aim: God's ways are the only right ways

David had become a warrior. God had shown David great favor in battle, against nations that had become God's enemies. In all of his fighting, David recognized that it was God who was protecting him and giving David his strength.

Because of David's great success, Saul became very jealous of David. To the point that he determined to kill him. After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of En-gedi. So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats.

At one point, Saul went into a cave where it just so happened, that David and his men were hiding!

David's men encouraged David to kill Saul. Instead David cut off a piece of Saul's robe. But then David's conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul's robe. He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn't attack the Lord's anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him." So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.

Another time, David slipped over to Saul's camp during the night to look around. Saul was sleeping inside a ring formed by the slumbering warriors. "Who will volunteer to go in there with me?" David asked his friends..

"I'll go with you," Abishai replied. So David and Abishai went right into Saul's camp and found him asleep, with his spear stuck in the ground beside his head.

"God has surely handed your enemy over to you this time!" Abishai whispered to David. "Let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't need to strike twice!"

"No!" David said. "Don't kill him. For who can remain innocent after attacking the Lord's anointed one? Surely the Lord will strike Saul down someday, or he will die of old age or in battle. The Lord forbid that I should kill the one he has anointed! But take his spear and that jug of water beside his head, and then let's get out of here!"

Both times after sparing Saul's life, David confronted Saul. He told him, "Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? I have proven that I will not harm you even if I have the chance. I choose to obey God, and will never harm you.

Then Saul confessed, "I have sinned. Blessings on you, my son David. You will do many heroic deeds, and you will surely succeed." Then David went away, and Saul returned home.