

Living in the tough times Sunday 16th February 2020

Learning from David pt 4

1 Samuel 18-23

1. After mountain top experiences expect the valley

David rose from shepherd boy to anointed as King elect, harpist in the Royal Palace, defeating the giant Goliath to...being on the run!

2. Beware of the corrosive effect of jealousy

*"What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!"*⁹ So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.' 1 Samuel 18:8-9

i. **On others** – David models a godly way to response. Rise above it!

ii. **On yourself** – it will destroy you!

"A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones." Proverbs 14:30

"Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many." Hebrews 12:15

3. Look for God's provision

i. **Through Godly advice**

"So David escaped and went to Ramah to see Samuel, and he told him all that Saul had done to him. Then Samuel took David with him to live at Naioth." 1 Samuel 19:18

ii. **By seeking God's direction in prayer**

'David asked the Lord, "Should I go and attack them?'" 1 Samuel 23:2

'So David asked the Lord again, and again the Lord replied, "Go down to Keilah, for I will help you conquer the Philistines.'" 1 Samuel 23:4

'But David learned of Saul's plan and told Abiathar the priest to bring the ephod and ask the Lord what he should do. ¹⁰ Then David prayed, "O Lord, God of Israel, I have heard that Saul is planning to come and destroy Keilah because I am here. ¹¹ Will the leaders of Keilah betray me to him? And will Saul actually come as I have heard? O Lord, God of Israel, please tell me." And the Lord said, "He will come." ¹² Again David asked, "Will the leaders of Keilah betray me and my men to Saul?" And the Lord replied, "Yes, they will betray you.'" 1 Samuel 23:9-12

iii. **Through trusted friendships**

"After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David." 1 Samuel 18:1

Or "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." (ESV)

"David received the news that Saul was on the way to Ziph to search for him and kill him. ¹⁶ Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God. ¹⁷ "Don't be afraid," Jonathan reassured him. "My father will never find you! You are going to be the king of Israel" 1 Samuel 23:15-17

iv. **Rest in God's protection**

"Saul hunted him day after day, but God didn't let Saul find him." 1 Samuel 23:14

a. When God turned warriors into worshippers (1 Sam 19:18 & 2 Cor 10:4)

b. When Philistine King Achish believed him to be mad and let him go (1 Sam 21:12-15)

Warning: When he focused on himself and tried to manipulate the situation, it went badly wrong (1 Sam 22:9-19 Ahimelech the priest)

c. When in hiding in the wilderness Saul couldn't find him – (1 Sam 23:14)

4. Learn to focus on God and others before yourself

a. Started by worshipping God with Samuel (1 Sam 19:18-20)

b. Continued by caring for his family (1 Sam 22:3-4)

c. Attracted the outcasts to him (1 Sam 22:2)

++ As he focused on God and others, God used his difficulties to prepare him for then future becoming King