

Life Lesson 68
David Again Spares Saul's Life
Text: I Samuel 26

Introduction

Do you ever want to “get even” with someone who has done something to hurt you? That may seem natural, but God says it is wrong. We can trust Him to defend us and to take our part when others hurt us. David knew that, as we will see that in our story today.

The Life Lesson

“King Saul is after you again,” the spies told David. “He is here in the wilderness of Ziph with 3,000 soldiers.”

Time after time King Saul had tried to kill David. Each time God kept David safe. The last time Saul came after him, David could have killed him. Instead he just cut a piece off King Saul's robe. Then Saul seemed sorry for trying to kill David. Now he was back again.

“Who will go with me to Saul's camp?” David asked his men.

“I'll go with you,” Abishai said.

Together the two men went to the place where Saul and his men were camped. The soldiers were all in a deep sleep. David realized that the Lord had put them to sleep in order to save his life again.

King Saul was sleeping in a trench in the middle of the camp with his spear stuck into the ground next to him. His captain, Abner, and his troops were lying around him. David and Abishai walked through the troops unnoticed and came to the place King Saul was sleeping.

“Look, God has delivered your enemy into your hands,” Abisahi said. “If you don't want to kill him, I will. I'll kill him with the first blow so that I won't need to strike him twice.”

“Don't do it,” David replied. “Who can kill the one God has anointed and be guiltless? The Lord will smite him when the time comes. He will die in battle or in some other way. I'm not going to kill him. Take his spear and this bottle of water from beside his head and let's go.”

David and Abishai took the spear and the water bottle and left the camp. Not one of the soldiers woke up, because God had put them to sleep. They went to the top of a hill far away from the soldiers.

“Abner,” David called out. “Aren’t you going to answer me?”

“What do you want?” Abner called back. “Who are you to dare call out to the king?”

“Aren’t you a valiant man?” David taunted him. “Why haven’t you watched over your king? You should be put to death for allowing the king’s life to be in danger. Look and see where the king’s spear and vessel of water are.”

“Is that you, David my son?” King Saul called out. Now that he saw David in person he was no longer so angry.

“Yes,” David replied. “Why do you keep on chasing after me? What have I ever done to you? If the Lord has stirred you up against me, I will confess any wrong-doing and will make an offering to Him. If it is my enemies that stir you to chase after me, may they be accursed!”

“I’ve been a fool,” King Saul admitted. “Because you have spared my life, I will spare yours. I will not harm you.”

“Send one of your young men after your spear,” David called to Saul. “Because I wouldn’t kill you when God delivered you into my hand, God has spared my life. The Lord will deliver me out of my tribulation.”

“You will do great things, my son David,” Saul said. “I know that you will prevail.”

Saul returned to his place and David went on his way.

Twice David had a chance to kill Saul, and twice he refused. Even though Saul made David’s life miserable, he left Saul’s punishment to God.

The Life Lesson

Have you ever been tempted to take someone’s punishment into your own hands? Maybe your brother or sister did something to you and you wanted to hit them for it. Is it your job to

correct your brother or sister? No, that's your parent's responsibility. If you hit them, you are doing wrong.

What if someone told lies about you? Would you feel like telling things about them to get even? Would that be right? No, that would make you as guilty as they are.

When we look for revenge, we always wind up the loser. How much better it is to be like David and let God repay those who do wrong to us!

Review Lessons

Who was trying to find David?

Saul

What was Saul planning to do to David?

Kill him.

Who went with David to King Saul's camp?

Abishai

Why didn't Saul know David and Abishai were there?

Because God put Saul and his men into a deep sleep.

What did Abishai want to do to Saul?

Kill him.

What did David say?

No. God will have him die some other way, if it is His will.

What did they take from Saul?

His water bottle and his spear.

Was Saul angry when he saw David in person and found out David had spared his life?

No. He said he wouldn't hurt David.

Should we make people pay when they hurt us?

No, we can leave it to God to take revenge for us.