

The Life of David Facebook Live Bible Study

Lesson 4, November 13, 2019

Read 1 Samuel 20

Read 1 Samuel 20:1 - 11

Think of what David has experienced to this point in his life that should bolster his faith and cause him to be confident in God's purposes for his life:

- Preparation while a shepherd boy
- Anointing by Samuel to be King
- Presence of the Holy Spirit upon him
- Victory over Goliath
- Many victories in the battlefield against Philistines
- Miraculous escapes from Saul's attempts to kill him
- Loving help from Jonathan and Michal

What emotions are evident in David's words and actions in his conversation with Jonathan here in 1 Samuel 20?

What is uppermost in David's mind during this conversation with Jonathan?

Here is another example of a man who demonstrates great faith at one point in his life, and then seems to be filled with fear at another. Abraham is another example of a man of God whose faith seems to be on a roller-coaster ride at times.

This says to us that we will have times of great faith and times of great fear. Our challenge is to recognize the times of fear and move on them quickly. Psalm 77 gives us a cure for fear!

Read Psalm 77

The cure for fear is:

- Remembering what God has done in the past – verse 11
- Meditating on his majesty – verse 12
- Reciting God's character – verses 14-15

We must intentionally change our thought patterns. How do you do that? By replacing wrong thoughts with right thoughts.

David asks Jonathan to lie for him. Is there ever a good reason to lie? Can you remember other times in the Bible when someone told a lie for a good purpose?

One lie usually leads to another.

Colossians 3:9-10: Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Read 1 Samuel 20:18 – 29

Numbers 28:11 stipulates that at the new moon – the beginning of each month – the children of Israel would offer a burnt offering. It was to be done and a feast would follow. So, Saul noticed when David was absent on that special day.

David and Jonathan concoct a plan as a warning sign for David, to tell him if Saul is trying to kill him or not. This signal from Jonathan will determine the course of David's life – as it turns out, for the next ten years.

What do you imagine David was thinking/praying as he waited there behind that heap of rocks? He's stuck in that waiting room. David had time to think about what could happen the next day. He must have had some of these thoughts and questions:

Could it be true that it could be God's will for him to be sent away and live as a fugitive? Could this be God's plan for his life? Why would the God who had selected him to be king and blessed him with so many victories now consign him to such a terrible life? God had the power to remove Saul immediately. Why did not God do the one thing that seemed to make so much sense?

Often the arrows of God's will for our lives fall beyond us – beyond our ability to understand, beyond our prayers for something different, beyond our desire to just serve the Lord in some normal way. One thing we must do is trust the loving purpose of God in the strange times.

Seek God instead of an explanation!

David learned this. Eventually during his fugitive days he wrote Psalm 63:

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...
Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.*

Suppose God had immediately killed Saul and David became king, without the years as a fugitive. Do you think the Psalms he wrote would be the same?

“Don’t try to read the book of God’s providence. He will read that to you later in heaven. Instead read that book in which he declares his love for you, the Bible, and know that he has a loving purpose for the trials that come your way.”

William Cowper wrote:

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

Read 1 Samuel 20:35 ~ 42

What a moment this is for David. God had taken away his position, his wife, and Samuel. Now, he loses his closest friend, Jonathan. All the props are being removed from David’s life. What good can come from this? Why would God allow this to happen to his anointed king?