

## “THE DANGER THAT ACCOMPANIES SUCCESS”

I Samuel 17:55 – 18:9

### I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. The danger of knowing your tomorrows in advance:
  - 1.
  - 2.
- B. Moving from the pasture to the battlefield one day at a time: *vv. 15-54*
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- C. The success (*fruit*) when the battle is the Lord's: *vv. 55-58*
  - 1.
  - 2.

### II. THE VALLEY THAT FOLLOWS A MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE: *vv. 1-9*

- A. The "stripling's" test of success: *vv. 58, 2*
  - 1.
  - 2.
- B. God's preparation for "valley" experiences: *vv. 1, 3-4*
  - 1. Friendships, God's provisions for agonizing tomorrows: (*See Heb. 10:25*)
  - 2. Four marks of a Godly friend:
    - a.
    - b.
    - c.
    - d.
- C. Reaping the fruit (*success*) on the mountaintop: *vv. 5-6*
  - 1. David "prosper" or "acts" wisely, surprising his peers: *vv. 5, 14-15, 30*
    - a.
    - b.
    - c.
- D. Pruning in order to produce "more fruit" (*success*) in the valley: *vv. 8-9*
  - 1. The valley from Saul's perspective:
  - 2. The valley from David's perspective:

### III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

"God helps us to do what we can and endure what we must even in the darkest hour. But more, he wants to teach us that there are no rainbows without the storm clouds and there are no diamonds without heavy pressure and enormous heat." *W.T. Purkiser*

"Praise God for the Furnace" by *A.W. Tozer*

"The hammer is a useful tool but the nail if it had feeling and intelligence, could present another side of the story. For the nail knows the hammer only as an opponent, a brutal merciless enemy who lives to pound it into submission, to beat it down, out of sight, and clinch it into place. That is the nail's only view of the hammer and it is accurate except for one thing. The nail forgets that both it and the hammer are servants of the same workman. Let the nail remember that the hammer was held by the workman, and all resentment toward it will disappear. The carpenter decides whose head will be beaten next and what hammer shall be used in the beating. This is the sovereign right of the carpenter. When the nail has surrendered to the will of the workman and has gotten a little glimpse of the wonderful plans for the future, it will yield to the hammer without complaint." *See Ja. 1:2; Rom. 5:3-5; Heb. 12:6*

"Being determined to perfect his saints, God puts his precious metal into the crucible, then he sits by and watches it. Love is his thermometer and love marks the exact degree of heat. Not one instant unnecessary pang will He permit and as soon as the dross is released, so that He sees Himself reflected in the fire, the trial (discipline) ceases."  
(*See 1 Ki. 17; Rom. 5; Heb. 12:6*) *Arthur Pearson*

"When God tests us, it is because He has our best interests at heart. When we test God, it is because we have our best interests at heart. Let this truth sink in. God tests us because he loves us and wants our faith to grow in strength and maturity. We test God because we love ourselves. In both cases, our best interest is the motive behind the testing. From what source then does the conflict of interest come, in deciding who knows what we need best? Unbelief is believing that what I think is my best interest, surpasses what God thinks is my best interest. *Walter Henderson*

**SINNERS PRAYER**

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breathe my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.