

I Samuel 19 - Handout

Last week in chapter 18, we saw how David was gaining in popularity with the people, which was causing Saul to be jealous. He therefore comes up with all kinds of plans to get rid of David, but none of them work. We know that they didn't work, because we are told over and over that the Lord was with David. In fact, Saul knows this and fears it.

We also saw the precious friendship that David had with Saul's son Jonathan, and that David ends up marrying Saul's daughter Michal, both of whom are loyal to David.

Today's chapter will show us Saul's continued attempt to kill David.

Verse 1

We get a contrast in this first verse.

What does Saul tell his son Jonathan and all his servants to do? _____

How are we then told that Jonathan feels about David? _____

Saul puts his son Jonathan in a difficult position. Jonathan loved David and God made an amazing bond of friendship between them that was sealed by a covenant (I Samuel 18:1-4). Jonathan knew that David was destined to be the next king of Israel, even though by right that position should go to Jonathan himself. Now his father is asking him to kill David.

Verse 2-3

What does Jonathan do with this information? _____

What does Jonathan tell David to do? _____

Jonathan says he will go talk to his father about David and share whatever information he learns. Jonathan knows that killing David was wrong and would go against God.

Verse 4-6

How does Jonathan speak of David to his father? _____

Jonathan goes on to try to convince his father not to sin against David.

Jonathan doesn't just tell David. He goes further and tries to talk David up to his father and get him to see that what he's doing is wrong.

What reasoning does he use? _____

Jonathan reminds Saul of what David had done in killing Goliath and how Saul himself saw it and rejoiced.

Jonathan then asks a very pointed question: "Why then would you sin against innocent blood by putting David to death for no reason?"

What can we see from how Jonathan treats his father here?

What is Saul's response to what Jonathan has said? _____

Verses 7-8

So Jonathan tells David everything that was said and brings him in Saul's presence like before.

What does David do when there is war again?

What do the Philistines do? _____

Verse 9-10

What are we told about Saul? _____

This is the third reference to an evil spirit afflicting Saul (16:14, 18:10). This evil influence overcame Saul's good intentions and resulted in his breaking his vow to God (verse 6).

What are we told Saul tries to do? _____

What happens to David? _____

This phrase occurs three times in this chapter (vs.10,12,18) and it contrasts with David being in Saul's presence.

Verse 11-13

What are we told Saul does? _____

Who informs David about what is happening? _____

We are told that she helps him escape through a window.

What does she do? _____

The figure that she used is thought to be a teraphim which was a figurine used as a household idol or as a fertility and good luck charm. It is hard to imagine that this image belonged to David. Most likely it belonged to Michal which shows she didn't have the kind of relationship with God that David did. This weak relationship reveals itself as the story of David's life unfolds in II Samuel.

Verses 14-17

What does Michal tell the messengers when they come to get David? _____

Now Saul wants them to drag David to him on his sickbed so he can kill him.

What happens when the messengers go to get David? _____

We see Saul confront his daughter Michal. He asks, Why have you betrayed me? In the ancient world, a daughter's loyalty to her father normally remained strong even after marriage. But here we see how God overcame what was natural to protect His anointed servant

How does Saul refer to David here? _____

Verses 18-20

Who does David go to? _____

David tells him everything that has happened and we are told they go to Naioth and stay there.

Who finds out where David is? _____

So Saul sends messengers to kill David. When they get to Naioth, they see Samuel standing and presiding over a company of prophets who are prophesying.

What happens to these men when they see the company of prophets prophesying?

When it says that they were all prophesying, remember that it doesn't mean they are all predicting the future. The Hebrew word here simply carries the idea that they are speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It seems they were all giving spontaneous and inspired praise to God.

Verse 21

Not one to be deterred, what does Saul do two more times? _____

What happens each time to these men? _____

Saul doesn't seem to be getting the message that God wants him to get. God's saying "Leave David alone. My Spirit is stronger than you are. You will never win this battle against me nor David.

Verses 22-24

Does Saul listen to what God is trying to say? _____

What does Saul do now? _____

We are told he goes to Ramah and asks after David and Samuel. Of course he is told they are at Naioth. This is weird because I thought he already knew that.

Saul proceeds to Naioth. **What happens to him?** _____

What else are we told Saul does?

Saul would not humble himself before God, so it seems that God is finding a way to humble him. It is most likely that Saul didn't take all of his clothes off. The Hebrew word for naked can indicate just stripping down to the undergarments. Most likely, Saul took off his royal robes and laid himself out before the Lord in his plain undergarments. It almost seems like this is God's way of saying "You aren't really a king anymore. I've stripped you of your royal glory."

Look at the end of verse 24. **Have we seen this statement before?**

If you remember, this phrase was first mentioned back in I Samuel 10:10-12 and we talked about how it expressed astonishment that someone became a religious enthusiast. Saul was an unspiritual man who became spiritual the moment the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

We see in this chapter how Saul's desperation to kill David grows and is fueled by the fact that both his son and daughter help David escape. We are seeing the slow, agonizing descent of Saul deeper and deeper into sin, madness and torment as he seeks to kill David.

It seems that the downward trajectory of Saul's life from here on is not a direct path, but rather has these awkward lurches forward and backward spiritually. For example, look back in this chapter where we see Jonathan is able to convince Saul not to harm David. But then, almost right away Saul goes back on his word, and the surprising reason is because God Himself sends a harmful spirit to torment him (vs.9).

Is God inhibiting Saul's repentance?

I believe this is an example of God giving someone exactly what they want. Saul had shown almost right away in his reign that he wanted his own way more than he wanted God's way, and so God gives him what his heart desires. God is still with Saul, but it creates this emotional and spiritual anguish in him, rather than peace and comfort.