

“The Spear & The Jug!”

I. **INTRO:**

A. A story was told of a man who loved old books. He met an acquaintance who had just thrown away a Bible that had been stored in the attic of his ancestral home for generations. “I couldn’t read it,” the friend explained. “Somebody named **Guten-something** had printed it.” “Not Gutenberg!” the book lover exclaimed in horror. “That Bible was one of the first books ever printed. Why, a copy just sold for over two million dollars!” His friend was unimpressed. “Mine wouldn’t have brought a dollar. Some fellow named *Martin Luther* had scribbled all over it in German.”

1. Value...what is your **value**...what are you **worth**?
2. We’ll discuss this towards the end when David said that he desired **his life to be valued much** in the eyes of the Lord. (24)

II. **THE SPEAR & THE JUG!**

A. **SETTING THE SCENE!** (1-5)

B. Once again, David is going to spare Saul’s life. Just like 2 chapters back.

1. This is a different story than ch.24. Many differences.

C. **SECOND OPPORTUNITY!** (6-12)

D. (8) **Abishi** - a brave man; but **brave** men are not always **wise**.

1. He basically said, “*you missed your first opportunity, so don’t miss this one.*”
2. But David knew that **God’s hand**, not his **own**, would have to strike Saul.
3. It would have been easy to argue that David had been **wrong** in the cave & that God **was** giving him a second chance to kill Saul.
 - a) But David’s decision was based on **principle** & not **circumstances**.

E. (10) A principle emerged from 25:39 - Its the Lord’s work/job/doing! (see 26:10, 23)

F. (11) **The spear stuck in the ground by his head**(7) - a symbol of his office & authority.

1. David took the spear from him, a significant action.

G. The Lord must have instructed David to go to Saul’s camp that night, because He sent a deep sleep upon Saul & his men. (*I think God giving Saul yet another chance of repentance!*)

H. **MOCKING SAUL’S BODYGUARD!** (13-16)

I. Didn’t want to mock the King to embarrass him, he picks on Abner his bodyguard.

- J. **A PARTRIDGE!** (17-25)
- K. (19) Saul are you chasing me because **God** told you to do so? Or, **man** told you to?
- L. (20) **Partridge** - Part of the Pheasant/Quail family. **Why I like hunting Quail over dove.**
1. Partridges don't like to fly. **They run** from one cover to another. (like David)
- M. (21) **I have sinned** - nice words...but are they sincere? **Nope!**
1. He has already said this twice & yet still pursued David.
 2. Here's a great **demonic lesson** to learn, when you feel squeezed by the Spirit **w/conviction...go sentimental! Say the right words!**
 3. **Pharaoh** made this profession (Ex.9:27); & so did **Balaam** (Num.22:34); **Achan** made this profession (Josh 7:20); & so did **Judas** (Mt.27:4).
 - a) **It's not about forming words in your mouth, but meaning them with your heart!**
- N. (21) **I have played the fool & erred exceedingly** - Yep!
1. He was correct in calling himself a fool.
 2. He was a fool in the way he treated Jonathan, David, Samuel, his army, his nation, & his God.
 3. He **lived** like a fool, & he **died** like a fool.
 4. Prov.26:11 **As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.**
 - a) As a dog eats its vomit, so a fool cannot learn from experience. **He returns to his habits even though they are disgusting.**
- O. **I have played the fool** - There are **2 Saul's** in the Bible, 1 in the OT, 1 in the NT.
- a) **These 2 make a striking & instructive contrast:**¹
 2. 1 was the 1st king of Israel; **the other** became the apostle Paul.
 3. 1 stood head & shoulders above others *physically*; **the other** stood head & shoulders above others *spiritually*.
 4. 1 said at the end of his life, **"I have played the fool"**; **the other** died saying, **"I have fought the good fight...finally there is laid up for me a crown of rt."**
- P. **A man plays the fool when...**
1. **When, he neglects his godly friends** (Samuel, David)
 2. **When, he goes on enterprises** for God before God has sent him.
 3. **When, he disobeys God** even in seemingly small matters (Amalekites).

¹ J. Sidlow Baxter; Awake My Heart; pg.228.

4. **When, he** tries to cover up his disobedience to God by **religious excuses** (they kept the animals for sacrifices).
5. **When, he** tries to **persuade himself** he is **doing God's will** **when** in his heart he knows otherwise.
6. **When, he** allows some jealousy or hatred to *master* & *enslave* & *deprave* him.
7. **When, he** knowingly fights against God, as Saul did in hunting David, to save his own face.
8. **When, he** turns from the God he has grieved, & seeks an alternative in traffic with *spirits in the Beyond* (ch.28)
9. He truly had, "**played the fool!**"

Q. The contrast con't...

1. With Saul of the OT there is a progressive **downgrade**; with Saul of the NT there is a progressive **upgrade** (for the prize of the upward calling of God in Christ Jesus).
2. With Saul of the OT "**self**" more & more gets the upper hand; with Saul of the NT there is a **progressive displacement** of **self-ism** in favor of monopoly by Christ.
3. Saul of the OT is **egocentric**; Saul of the NT is **Christocentric**.
4. Saul of the OT to live was "**self**"; Saul of the NT to live was "**Christ**".
5. Saul of the OT to die was "**shame & gloom**"; Saul of the NT to die was "**gain & glory**".
6. Saul's heart-rending requiem was, "**I have played the fool**"; Paul's martyrdom song was, "**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown!**"
7. Saul of the OT **threw his crown away**; Saul of the NT, who lived for Christ, **gained a crown** which will never lose its luster through all the ages!
 - a) I guess the bumper in all this is...how often **I look** more like *Saul of the OT!* :(

R. (22) David's only response to his "words" - *Here is the king's spear. Come & get it.*

S. (24) **Let my life be valued much** in the eyes of the Lord - Amen!

1. **What is my worth?** Well, **what is one willing to pay for you?** I did find a web site that if you enter a few pages of information (which I didn't want to do) it will tell you how much you are worth.
2. **But I already know how much Brian's worth.** I am worth the death of God's only Son!
 - a) **Turn to** Mt.13 for 3 parables:

b) R.C.Trench, *Archbishop of Dublin* said, The Oriental custom of the day was that rich men would divide their goods into **3 parts**:

- (1) One they would put into **Commerce** for their support.
- (2) One they would put into **Jewels** which might be easily carried.
- (3) The 3rd they'd **Bury** for safe keeping.

c) Interesting these 1st 3 parables speak of **Burying**, a **Jewel**, & **Commerce** by fishing!

3. Mt.13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like **treasure** hidden in a **field** (believers in the world), which a man found and hid; and for **joy over it** he goes and **sells all that he has and buys** (purchased by Jesus) **that field** (not for the field but for the treasure in the field).
4. Mt.13:45,46 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful **pearls**, who, when he had found one pearl of great price (the Church), went and sold all that he had and bought it.
5. Mt.13:47-50 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
 - a) **What is my worth?** You may not feel worth very much...but its how **God**, *the purchaser* sees you, not how **you**, *the purchased one* sees yourself.
 - b) American artist **James Whistler**, who was never known to be bashful about his talent, was once advised that a shipment of blank canvases he had ordered had been lost in the mail. When asked if the canvases were of any **great value**, Whistler remarked, "**not yet, not yet.**"

T. (25) These are the last recorded words of Saul to David.

1. A statement that affirms the greatness of David's **deeds** & the certainty of his **kingship**.

U. The next day Saul withdrew his troops from the area.

1. Never again does the bible indicate that Saul attacked David.
2. **They depart**: Saul toward disgrace & death; David toward ultimate glory & victory

V. Communion:

1. Bread:
2. Cup: