

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 31: Chapter 19, David Trusts in Man

3 February 2017

Today's lesson will show why *"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man"* (Psa. 118:8). You can't ever let your guard down in this battle against sin. You've got to stay close to God through His word and in prayer consistently or you'll begin to trust yourself and other men instead of God. You'll discover that man is a poor substitute for God. Even God's greatest men of the Bible failed when they looked to their flesh instead of looking to God. You've got to seek fresh blessings from God every day; you've got to constantly seek the face of God.

Read First Samuel 19:1-10

THE PROBLEM: SAUL WANTS TO KILL DAVID.

DAVID AND JONATHAN'S "SOLUTION." They attempted to solve the problem by outsmarting Saul through various devices of man. Nowhere in this passage do we find them looking to God for the answer. *"The arm of flesh shall fail you — Ye dare not trust your own."*

- Jonathan spoke to Saul for David to try and smooth things over (vss. 4-5).
 - David played sweetly on the harp to help Saul to calm down (vs. 9).
 - Men can't change another man's heart; only God can do that (Prov. 21:1).
 - All of our past failures have been the result of not placing those situations in God's hands.
 - When we did finally turn to God, it was after we'd already tried and failed in our own strength. We should have come to God first in every situation.
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Read First Samuel 19:11-17

DAVID AND MICHAL'S "SOLUTION." They devised a lie and a deception to get out of trouble.

- They thought the situation must certainly allow them to sin—as long as the outcome was good.
 - The apostle Paul was falsely accused of preaching this philosophy (Romans 3:8).
 - The idea that *"It's alright to sin if it's for a good cause"* is a lie right out of hell.
 - Now David is not only in danger from Saul, but he's in trouble with God.
 - Not only that, but David's situation with Saul hasn't improved at all.
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Read verses 18-24

SAMUEL'S SOLUTION. He trusted God to change Saul's heart.

- Samuel lived his life by this rule: "Take it to the Lord in prayer." (See "What a Friend We Have in Jesus). Once he did that, all he had to do was sit back and watch what the power of God can do.

- Saul sent a band of soldiers to take David three times. Three times God took hold of the hearts of those soldiers and their hearts were turned toward God.
 - At the same time, Samuel was praying for God to do something with David's heart as he watches the wondrous working of God before him.
 - David needs to learn to trust God completely; to trust God first; to trust God always. He needs to learn not to trust the arm of flesh and not to worry when the arm of flesh is coming after you (see 2 Chronicles 32:8).
 - Even King Saul couldn't resist God's working in his heart (Prov. 21:1). He also prophesied.
 - The result: God was glorified, people were blessed, David was safe.
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- When your trust is in the Lord, the battle is not your own (See Elisha in 2 Kings 6:15-23).
 - "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." (Zech. 4:6).
 - If David would have believed God's promises, he could have realized that Saul was never a real threat from the beginning. David was anointed as the King of Israel by God's prophet. God didn't lie about that.
 - Manoah (Samson's father) made the same mistake (Judges 13:22).
 - What about you? Are you making the same mistake? Consider the Lord's promises to you. What do you have to fear? Trust the Lord.
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