

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 34: Chapter 21:10-15, David Loses Faith in Gath

24 February 2017

YOUR PAST VICTORIES OUGHT TO INCREASE YOUR FAITH

David had some great victories that he could look back on as a source of faith and confidence in the face of new trials and dangers, but he failed to draw upon those victories when he was face to face with his enemies in Goliath's home town of Gath. The Philistines remembered David's victories and would have liked to kill him to prevent future victories of the same sort. Realizing this, David turned to his own devices instead of turning to the God who is greater than any number of Philistines.

UNBELIEF WILL NEVER LEAD YOU OUT OF TROUBLE

By faith, you've got to face your troubles, trusting God to work something out in your life as you go through your trials. We need to learn to let God have complete control of our lives. This is the lesson David must learn over time.

God didn't promise to remove all your troubles when you got saved. His promise is that you can still triumph in your troubles if you'll trust Him (Psalm 92:4, 2 Cor. 2:14). God wants you to be able to thank Him one day as you look back on your troubles and see how those troubles helped you to depend upon Him and let him control your life. God's purpose is to give you eternal life (John 3:16) and abundant life (John 10:10). Abundant life comes as you learn to depend upon the Lord and allow the burdens of life to strengthen you spiritually.

DAVID; A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART (1 Sam. 13:14, Acts 13:22)

David didn't have God's own heart, but that's what he was after. He didn't give up because of the trials of life. He persevered; hoping one day to have a heart like God's.

The apostle Paul was after the same thing (**Philippians 3:8-14**). He said he hadn't apprehended it yet, but he kept pressing toward the mark.

God doesn't expect sinless perfection from His children. He wants to see that our heart's desire is to be more and more like Jesus every day.

God doesn't judge you by your outward actions. For example, many Christians give (grudgingly, reluctantly, with complaint) simply because they feel they must do so (of necessity) (2 Cor. 9:6-7). With that attitude, God doesn't care how much you give; in fact, He'd rather you didn't (Isaiah 1:11, Psalm 51:16-17). —He appreciates the heart of the widow who was only able to give two mites, but gave it all from a heart of faith (Mark 12:41-44).

Let the desire of your heart be the Lord Himself and you'll have what you desire (Prov. 37:4).

THE SORROW WE SEEK TO AVOID ALWAYS FINDS US WHEN WE LEAVE THE PLACE WHERE GOD PUT US.

David tried to get away from his trouble with King Saul in Israel and he found the same trouble in Gath.

When you find yourself in trouble, don't instinctively run from the trouble; try to figure out what God might be trying to teach you in that situation.

David ran from his troubles and ended up making a fool of himself (vs. 13). When we get away from God and try to work out our own problems, we're likely to make a fool of ourselves.

DAVID'S TESTIMONY DIDN'T MATCH HIS CURRENT BEHAVIOR (Vs. 14)

David had a testimony of being the man who trusted his God so much that he wrought a great victory for Israel by the power of God. But now he shows himself to be a worldly madman.

If you're a Christian and you backslide and end up back in your former lifestyle and your past sinful ways, don't be surprised when God sends someone your way who remembers you when you were "playing the religion game" (John 18:25, Jonah 1:8-9). You'll bring shame to yourself and dishonor to your Lord.

The depths of humiliation: David's behavior shows us the great contrast between a man of faith and a man who is trusting his own human reasoning. There's a great difference.

DAVID'S PSALM ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE IN GATH (Psalm 56)

1. When we take our eyes off God and focus on our troubles, we begin to magnify our troubles (Vss. 1-2).
 - a. Saul was the only one fighting against David; not "many," and it wasn't "daily."
 - b. Check yourself; do you tend to make your troubles bigger than they really are?
 2. You'll try to convince yourself that you trust God (Vss. 3-4). (See vain repetitions: Matt. 6:7).
 3. Eventually you may begin to reason things out as you meditate in prayer (Vss. 5-9).
 - a. You'll remember that God is for you (Vs. 9, Rom. 8:31), and you'll begin to see things in their proper perspective.
 4. You'll remember the big picture; that God saved your soul for eternity (Vs. 13). Certainly, He can give you grace as you go through temporal troubles if you'll trust in Him (1 Pet. 3:13-15).
 - a. ***For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life*** (Rom. 5:10).
 5. You will trust God (Vs. 11). Maybe not today, but it will be your heart's desire to fully trust in your Lord and Savior. You will be "after God's own heart."
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