

THINE ENEMIES AND THEY THAT SEEK EVIL

1 SAMUEL 25:25 – 26:25

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~ David was a man after God's own heart; yet, as most people are aware, he committed several great sins. If you will note in the account as we proceed, every time David departed from walking with God, immediate tragedy came over him – and we see that pattern throughout his life's account. In this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, we'll see a woman bring out David's best character; and we'll also see him literally ruin it in total disobedience to God. Further, the consequence of his sin is to be considered very carefully by believers; and that's exactly what we're going to do in this report. David begins his life of sin right here, friends.

It was an exciting moment with David and his men as we concluded our previous report. We saw Nabal, whose name means "fool," totally insult David's men who were sent to request food. Nabal turned David down flat. Well, David had been protecting Nabal's possessions, and David could have simply taken everything – sheep, cattle, women, fruit – everything; and he almost did just that, until Nabal's wife intervened. Abigail, Nabal's wife, knew what David was going to do. Killing and plundering were normal, everyday occurrences in Saul's kingdom. If you read this record correctly, you'll see Abigail believed she would have been killed if she hadn't intervened and brought food.

So, Abigail came around the hill with sheep and wine and corn and raisins for David - just as David was riding down to wipe them out and take what he needed. I think David was as angry as he could get – probably talking to himself about killing Nabal – when Abigail comes into view on her little donkey. As we begin to read here, David is face to face with this Godly woman who meant well by him. Remember, she fell at his feet – right there in the dust – and she tells David to blame her for Nabal's stupidity. Of course, David isn't about to harm this beautiful woman when she presents herself this way....

XXV

25 Abigail said, Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, the devil, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.

26 Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

27 And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

28 I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days.

29 Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling.

~ Even up to this point, David has lived only for God and has obeyed all he was told to do. There hasn't been any failure of David in his life yet. David is honestly and sincerely attempting to please God and obey Him. Abigail admired him for that, too. It would be remarkable if these things could be said about any of us today. I doubt they could be said of you or me, though. Abigail knows Saul is hunting David for no reason at all, although she doesn't identify Saul by name here. This is likely the single most wonderful statement ever made by anyone about David. For Abigail to say David's soul was bound in the bundle of life with the Lord God is simply beyond the purest of love.

That's the position of any believer's soul who honestly trusts and obeys Christ. John, in his first epistle, calls Christ life itself – eternal life – to be

specific. When you and I trust Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit immediately baptizes us into the body of believers. That body, of course, is Christ Himself. Paul said, "... by One Spirit are we all baptized into One body!" This is only accomplished by faith! So, we are said to be in Christ, and we also know there is no condemnation to those who are in Him. That makes your soul and my soul bound in the bundle of life with the Lord Jesus Christ – just as Abigail says David is. For Abigail to make this statement is clear proof she knew something about David – and a lot about God. David's enemies – and our enemies – are going to be "slung out" someday. This was not that day for David; and it isn't that day for you or me....

30 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel;

31 That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

32 And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me:

33 And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand.

34 For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hastened and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

35 So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.

36 And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.

37 But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone.

38 And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.

39 And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.

40 And when the servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife.

41 And she arose, and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said, Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

42 And Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife.

43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives.

~ So, Abigail was a legitimate widow when David took her as his wife, but there's still a problem – he is already married. The *OTHER* problem is that most people assume the second wife – which was really a third wife – means God condones polygamy. No friends, God doesn't approve of this,

and God isn't going to bless this sin of David; and as soon as the next chapter begins – guess who is right back in David's life making trouble? I think David honestly loved Abigail; whereas he didn't love Michal, his first wife that he was still married to at this time – even though Saul had given her away to someone else. What a messed-up situation we have unfolding here!

This is where sin enters the life of David very definitely. This chapter opens with the death of Samuel and closes with the sin of David. This sin that is repeated by David leads, ultimately, to murder and adultery. This is where most people question how David could be a man after God's own heart; well, David will regret this sin and, as a result, God will not allow David to build the temple David really wanted to build for God. That temple is going to have to be built by Solomon. Building the temple is the one thing David wanted to do above all else during his lifetime. We are also going to see God put the lash to David's back for these sins in myriad other ways; and He never removed it as far as I can tell....

44 But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

XXVI

1 And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon?

2 Then Saul arose , and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

4 David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed.

5 And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched: and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him.

6 Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.

8 Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.

9 And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

10 David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.

11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

12 So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.

13 Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space being between them:

14 And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who art thou that criest to the king?

15 And David said to Abner, Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.

16 This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster.

17 And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king.

18 And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done ? or what evil is in mine hand?

19 Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods.

20 Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

21 Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

22 And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it.

23 The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.

24 And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

25 Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

~ So, our safari ends this report in the wilderness of Ziph with David sparing Saul's life - again; and I think David's men were just about fed up with sparing Saul. It's a good thing these men were loyal to David and trusted his judgment, because it made the difference between Saul living or dying. It might have made the difference between David living and dying in this second round with Saul. Abishai certainly wanted to end the madness right here! From now on, it is well to note that David was a great military leader. David knew the terrain and Saul did not; and Saul's men weren't very loyal, either – his general has just been caught sleeping on the job. This was a terrible and serious blunder Saul's men made in this chapter.

Through it all, Saul understood David had been anointed by Samuel as God's choice to be king of Israel. That doesn't deter Saul from wanting to kill David, though. David recognizes Saul is still God's anointed king, and David refused to kill him because of that designation. What a contrast we have between types of men in this picture. I think David is very frustrated with having to constantly run away, though. Now, God simply must deal with Saul – and He will; but David isn't going to take it upon himself to handle his problems.

See, our enemy in this world is Satan – the devil – and you are not going to destroy the devil, friends – you can forget that ridiculousness. If you are reading this report, you will never have the opportunity David had to kill Saul. This isn't so difficult to understand, because the protectors of Saul were probably drunk – and that's what I feel it means by "a deep sleep

from the Lord” in verse twelve. Alcohol is commonly referred to as “spirits” and we know God sent evil spirits to Saul. Turn that all over in your minds a few times and see what you come up with. When they do wake up, we see David being very sarcastic in taunting Abner – who should have been protecting Saul.

It’s easy to criticize David for his sins, but how many of us are really letting God handle our enemy? Taking matters into our own hands and making an attempt to answer the ones who hate us is foolishness, friends; and it’s not what God wants you doing in your life, either! God says for us to walk by faith and let Him handle things; God wants us to trust Him – not our own goodness, and not your own intellect. We’re going to discover David had every reason to trust the Lord, because Saul won’t be around much longer after this account.

Alright, our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God is going to visit the witch of Endor with King Saul in our next report – I hope you won’t miss that report. There has always been a big question about this event. You and I live in a day of abject Satan worship and hyper-spiritualism – and most of it is done by people who incessantly claim Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. Well, there are a whole lot of people that claim Him, but whom Jesus won’t be claiming IN THAT DAY! And you can just write that down, friends ~