

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 55]

DAVID'S LAST ENCOUNTER WITH SAUL

Reading: 1Samuel 26:12 - 21

Introduction

- For a few years an on/off game of cat and mouse has been taking place in southern Judah.
- David the under-dog against Saul and the armies of Israel.
- Saul had been the **'hunter'** but now the hunter has become the hunted.
- Saul's army had made camp and lulled into a false sense of security they failed to set a guard.
- With all asleep David and Abishai, commando style sneak into Saul's camp.

1 Blessed Are The Merciful

- Abishai wants to kill the sleeping Saul with his own spear.
- How tempting that must have sounded to David.
- David had let Saul off previously and it hasn't changed him from coming after David again.
- But David again shows mercy. [Matthew 5:7].
- Saul did not deserve to be shown mercy.
- Showing mercy to someone is not a weakness; it's a strength. [Micah 6:8].
- David here is a picture of the God who shows mercy to us. [Ephesians 2:4].
- **NB.** It is the merciful who get mercy in the end.

2 David's Prophecy [26:10]

- Indeed Saul would later go out to battle and die.
- Let God deal with your enemies and keep your hands clean.
- Once safe, David cries out into the camp of Saul.
- He chides Abner for failing to be at his post. Are you at yours?

3 David And Saul's Night Time Dialogue

- Saul recognises the voice of David despite the darkness.
- David wants to know why Saul is doing what he's doing. [vs 18]
- Is there evil in your hand? [Psalm 24:3/4].
- [vs 21] Saul acknowledges his sin. Can you acknowledge your sin? [2 Samuel 12:13],[Luke 15:18].
- Saul acknowledges that he has played the fool. [26:21].
- That's 2 fools in the space of 2 chapters. Nabal and Saul.

4 Payday [vs 23]

- Notice the 2 essentials. **Righteousness** (doing what is right by a person) and **faithfulness**.
- Are you doing right by others?
- If it was payday tomorrow what would the Lord pay out?
- God is looking for the faithful man and the faithful woman. Are you them?
- Whatever you do for the Lord, do it faithfully.
- With regard to our stewardship we strive for that benediction of [Matthew 25:21/23].

6 The Delivery Man [vs 24]

- David finishes his speech with a prayer.
- ***'Let Him deliver me out of all tribulation.'***
- 55 times in the psalms the psalmists talk about deliverance.
- It is also the 6th petition in the Lord's prayer.
- It is God's promise to us [Psalm 50:15].
- Whatever tribulation Satan posts to our home, our God will deliver us.
- **NB.** This is the last time Saul and David would ever meet.

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