

June 15–21: 1 Samuel 17–18; 24–26; 2 Samuel 5–7 “The Battle Is the Lord’s”

In our last lesson, we learned that Saul disobeyed the Lord and would not repent, so the Lord directed Samuel to anoint David as the next king. Without knowing this, Saul brought David into his court to play the harp and later made him his armor-bearer.

David and Goliath

The Philistines came out to battle against the Israelites. They sent Goliath to fight any Israelite warrior. If Goliath won, Israel would serve the Philistines, but if the Israelite warrior won, then the Philistines would serve Israel. David told Saul that he would fight Goliath and defeat him.

1Sam 17:32-37

32 ¶ And David said to Saul, Let no man’s heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father’s sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

How had David’s past experiences prepared him to trust the Lord in this challenge?

(The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine)

Camille N. Johnson

“[David] reflected upon his experience saving lambs from a lion and a bear. And building on those heroic feats, he mustered the faith and courage to let God write his story, declaring, ‘The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.’ With a desire to let God prevail, with an ear to the Holy Ghost and a willingness to let the Savior be the author and finisher of his story, the boy David defeated Goliath and saved his people.” (CR, Oct. 2021)

1Sam 17:42-47

42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he

was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

43 And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.

What does David mean when he says, “the battle is the Lord’s”?

(the LORD saveth not with sword and spear)

James E. Faust

"Goliath made sport of David's youth and lack of armament. David responded that he came in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel and that the whole assembly would learn that the Lord saveth not by the sword and the spear, 'for the battle is the Lord's.' Then David threw a rock from his sling with such force and accuracy that the stone sank deep into the forehead of Goliath. Goliath fell to the earth a dying man, and the Philistines fled in fear." (CR, April 1980)

David and Jonathan

If Saul had remained faithful, the next king would most likely have been Saul's oldest son, Jonathan.

1Sam 18:1-4

1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul

2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

How did Jonathan respond to the Lord's choosing David to be Israel's next king?

(Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him)

Jeffrey R. Holland

“Jonathan, the son of King Saul, was a valiant soldier in his own right and a worthy young prince in Israel. But when David came onto the scene fresh from his mighty victory over Goliath, having already been anointed by the prophet Samuel, it was he, not Jonathan, who would be successor to the increasingly disobedient Saul.

“To a lesser man—or a lesser friend—than Jonathan, David would have been a terrible threat, a natural rival. But he wasn’t. So great was their devotion to one another that they ‘made a covenant’ of loyalty. As a symbolic token of his devotion to the newly anointed king, Jonathan stripped himself of the princely robe he wore and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.” (1 Sam. 18:4). (“Real Friendship,” New Era, June 1998)

Saul made David a leader over part of his army

1Sam 18:5-9,12

5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.

6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

12 ¶ And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul

What caused Saul to become angry and fearful of David?

(Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands
Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him
what can he have more but the kingdom?
the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul)

Ezra Taft Benson

“Saul became an enemy to David through pride. He was jealous because the crowds of Israelite women were singing that ‘Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.’

“The proud stand more in fear of men’s judgment than of God’s judgment. When pride has a hold on our hearts, we lose our independence of the world and deliver our freedoms to the bondage of men’s judgment. The world shouts louder than the whisperings of the Holy Ghost. The reasoning of men overrides the revelations of God, and the proud let go of the iron rod.” (CR, April 1989)

Saul Seeks to Kill David

Saul became so overcome with pride that he ordered David to be killed.

1Sam 19:1,4-6

1 And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

4 And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good:

5 For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the Lord wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

6 And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the Lord liveth, he shall not be slain.

What does Jonathan say to defend David, and what can we learn from his example?

(he hath not sinned against thee
because his works have been to thee-ward very good
he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine
wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood)

But Saul’s pride and selfishness again overcome him.

1Sam 19:9-10

9 And the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.

10 And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul’s presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

JST 1Sam 19:9 And the evil spirit which was not of the Lord was upon Saul...

What can we learn from this passage about how unchecked anger can lead to destructive actions?

The high priest of Nob gave David protection and supplies. As a result, Saul had 85 priests killed, along with everyone and everything in the city.

1Sam 22:12-13,17-19

12 And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord.

13 And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

17 And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the Lord; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the Lord.

18 And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.

19 And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

What does this passage teach us about the destructive effects of jealousy, envy, and pride?

Keith Meservy

“Over the years these seeds [of envy] ripened into full bloom as jealousy began to eat away at Saul’s rational powers and move him to seek David’s death.

“Saul subordinated everything else to his all-consuming desire to kill David. Eighty-five priesthood leaders, mistakenly accused of aiding David, were butchered in a pitiless massacre; whenever David’s whereabouts was ascertained, Saul led a personal campaign against him.

“David had succeeded in staying alive, despite Saul’s best efforts to the contrary. Never did he make any effort to avenge the accumulating wrongs committed against him by Saul. The king’s actions were left entirely to the Lord to judge and to reward in his own due time.” (“The Peaceful Life through Reconciliation” Ensign, July 1986)

Despite Saul’s all-consuming desire to kill David, we will see that David honored Saul’s calling and left it to God to judge and do His work.

At one point, David was in a cave with Saul. Those who were with David tried to convince him that the Lord had delivered Saul into his hands and that he should kill

him. But David would not do it.

1Sam 24:6-12

6 And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.

7 So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

8 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

9 ¶ And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?

10 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the Lord had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the Lord's anointed.

11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

12 The Lord judge between me and thee, and the Lord avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

Why did David refuse to take revenge on Saul, even when he had the opportunity to do so?

(I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the Lord's anointed.

see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand

The Lord judge between me and thee, and the Lord avenge me of thee)

Abraham H. Cannon

We of all people upon the face of the earth should be filled with that love of God which cannot be overcome by the acts of men, even though these acts are injurious to us. We should be able to say when wrong is done us, "The Lord judge between me and thee;" and from our hearts there should be crushed out every feeling of bitterness and hatred; for if we allow a spark thereof to remain, it will rankle, and it will grow as the weed, choking out the good seed and preventing the development of the power of the Spirit of God within us. (Brian H. Stuy, Collected Discourses, vol. 4, Feb 2, 1896)

1Sam 24:16-20

16 And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

17 And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

18 And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the Lord had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

19 For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the Lord reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day.

20 And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand.

What does Saul's response teach us about responding to evil with righteousness and mercy?

(Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

I know well that thou shalt surely be king)

Saul and his son Jonathan were killed in a battle against the Philistines.

2Sam 1:11-12,23-26

11 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him:

12 And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the Lord, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

23 Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

24 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

25 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places.

26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

How does David's response to Saul's death teach us about forgiveness, loyalty, and love?

(they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan
Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives

Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet)

James L. Ferrell

“What is striking about David's response here is that there is almost no difference in his expressed feelings for Saul and for Jonathan. He is devastated by both of their deaths. One would expect him to feel that way about Jonathan, but Saul? How could David's feelings for one who tried to

destroy him be so similar to the feelings he had for one who loved him as his own soul?...

“Few questions are more pertinent to our lives, for who has not felt envious, angry, or embittered toward others? Such feelings seem to haunt our lives, but Jonathan and David suggest that they don’t have to. Their lives testify of a better way.” (The Hidden Christ, pg. 163-165)

David Unites Israel

After the death of Saul and his sons, all the tribes of Israel accepted David as their king.

2Sam 5:1-3,12

1 Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel.

12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel’s sake

Samuel anointed David to become king. Now he was anointed as king over Israel.

David made Jerusalem the capital and brought the Ark of the Covenant there. Recall that Numbers 4:15 states, “they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.”

2Sam 6:4-7,17

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

5 And David and all the house of Israel played before the Lord on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

6 And when they came to Nachon’s threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.

7 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.

17 And they brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.

What does the death of Uzzah teach us about obedience, humility, and trusting in the Lord?

David O. McKay

“It is a little dangerous for us to go out of our own sphere and try unauthoritatively to direct the efforts of a brother. You remember the case of Uzzah who stretched forth his hand to steady the ark. He seemed justified when the oxen stumbled in putting forth his hand to steady that symbol of the covenant. We today think his punishment was very severe. Be that as it may, the incident conveys a lesson of life. Let us look around us and see how quickly men who attempt unauthoritatively to steady the ark die spiritually. Their souls become embittered, their minds distorted, their judgment faulty, and their spirit depressed. Such is the pitiable condition of men who, neglecting their own responsibilities, spend their time in finding fault with others” (CR, Apr. 1936)

By seeking inspiration from the Lord, David went on to conquer all the land that had been promised to Abraham and his posterity. Here is one example.

2Sam 5:18-24

18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim
19 And David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the Lord said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

20 And David came to Baal-perazim, and David smote them there, and said, The Lord hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim.

21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.

22 ¶ And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

23 And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

24 And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the Lord go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

How did David demonstrate faith in God as he sought victory over Israel’s enemies?

(David inquired of the Lord

The Lord hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me
for then shall the Lord go out before thee)

-This reminds me of the righteous military leaders in the Book of Mormon, who always sought direction from the Lord while protecting their freedom.

Summary

Up to this point in his life, David was a great example of how a follower of Christ should act:

- His great faith when challenging Goliath

- His compassion and forgiveness toward Saul

- His obedience and humility while leading Israel to victory

- His reverence regarding the Ark and building a temple