Lesson 3: Saul Pursues and Persecutes David (I Samuel 19-26)

**Review**

Last week, we saw the decline of Saul’s kingdom begin with his presumptuous act of offering a sacrifice at Gilgal while the people scattered from him and the Philistines prepared for war. Saul’s poor leadership continued with issuing a rash order that almost resulted in the death of Jonathan. Saul then failed to completely destroy the Amalekites, resulting in the Lord tearing away the kingdom from Saul. Samuel then anoints David to be king over Israel. As a result, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon David, and a distressing spirit comes upon Saul. David enters Saul’s service to play the harp and comfort Saul from the distressing spirit. David demonstrates enormous faith and courage in killing Goliath, but Saul becomes jealous as the people praise David for his courage. Saul then attempts to kill David by placing him in battle with the Philistines. However, with each assignment David is successful and continues to earn the respect of the people, which causes Saul’s jealousy to increase.

**Questions**

1. What reasoning does Jonathan use to plead with his father Saul on behalf of David, and what is the result (19:4-7)?
2. How does Michal protect David’s life from her father Saul, and what is her real motivation (19:11-17)?
3. How does the saying “Is Saul also among the prophets” come true again when Saul pursues David in Naioth (19:19-24)? What do you think the message was to Saul from this event?
4. What covenant do Jonathan and David make, and how is that covenant kept after Saul’s reign (20:12-17)?
5. Was it lawful for David and his men to eat the shewbread (21:3-6; Leviticus 24:5-9)? If not, then why was it allowed (Mark 2:23-26; Luke 6:4)?
6. What would be the significance of David being given Goliath’s sword in 21:9 given this moment in David’s life (21:1-2)?
7. How does David react upon hearing of the slaughter of the priests at Nob, and what does it say about his character (22:21-23; Psalm 52)?
8. How does David demonstrate being “a man after God’s own heart” in his engagement with the city of Keilah (23:2-5, 9-12)?
9. How does David’s attitude in sparing Saul’s life differ with that of his own men, and how does it demonstrate submission to God? Did this event appear to change Saul? (24:3-22)
10. How does Abigail respond to Nabal’s actions toward David’s servants, and what do her actions teach us about godly womanhood (25:14-38)?
11. What specific appeal does David make to Saul in sparing his life a second time? Does this sparing of his life appear to change Saul? (26:17-25)