

Message #45

I Samuel 19:1-7

When it comes to development in life for God, it is not an easy life that makes one strong. A believer, who will truly develop to become strong, will be one who faced difficulties, obstacles and hazards.

It is that kind of life that causes one to develop into becoming strong for God. **Learning to trust God and God alone, learning to depend on God and learning about the sovereign care of God requires some trouble.**

That point was certainly true and was in fact the very testimony of the life of David. In fact, here is what David said:

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies they stumbled and fell. Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, In spite of this I shall be confident.” ... “Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me in a level path because of my foes. Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD” (Ps. 27:1-3, 11-14).

It was the troubles of David that developed David so he understood that.

David started off as a shepherd boy on the hillside of Bethlehem. He was not looking to become king of Israel. He was simply a young man doing his job. He was good at his job. He cared for sheep even when he had to face off with a bear and lion. David was faithful and obedient to his dad who told him to take some food and go check up on his brothers. When he got out there, he heard some huge giant mocking Israel and mocking God. David was not looking for this, he found himself faced with this. Now David loved God and he loved Israel, so he went out and dropped Goliath. That sparked all of Israel to a new faith and confidence in God.

Everyone in the nation was happy, except for King Saul. He hated David. He was jealous of David and his goal was to get rid of David. **Now the real question to all of this is why does God permit this?** Why doesn't God cause Saul to drop dead? Why doesn't Saul have some heart attack or why doesn't God cause some bear or lion to kill him? **The answer is this—God knew the best way to develop David was to have these hardships, threats and hazards so that He could develop David into becoming a greater vessel for Him.**

Through all of the threats and intimidations, David would learn that he could trust God and depend on God. David would learn to draw close to God and cry out to God and it would be this that would make him a great man of God.

There is a tremendous lesson to learn from this text:

GOD PERMITS HIS PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE THREATENING THINGS AND INTIMIDATIONS SO HIS PEOPLE WILL LEARN HE IS PROTECTING THEM AND CARING FOR THEM SO THAT THEY WILL DEVELOP INTO BECOMING A STRONGER BELIEVER.

This is all about developing David. For the most part, David does not even know what is happening behind the scenes. He is in the total dark. But what David would begin to see here is how God cares for him. David could learn to trust in the sovereignty of God. David could learn that God protected him from things when he didn't even know the dangers.

In this text, there are four person interactions:

PERSON INTERACTION #1 – Saul wants David assassinated. 19:1a

The conjunction “now” that begins **verse 1** is a waw consecutive in Hebrew, meaning a sequence of action and events.

Saul had been hoping that David would be killed by the Philistines (18:25). But of course his plan backfired. David not only defeated the enemy (18:27), but he also was growing in popularity because he kept winning (18:30).

God was establishing David as one of his great men. Now David had no idea that Saul wanted him dead. That, by the way, is what jealousy and envy can do; it can hate someone so much that you want to destroy them. Get rid of it as quick as you can.

David was happy serving the Lord and he is faithfully carrying out every assignment given to him. But Saul wanted David dead and in **verse 1** he told Jonathan and all his servants to put him to death.

To this point, Saul had been trying to kill David privately. He threw a spear at him; he sent him out to battle the Philistines and he actually gave David his daughter in marriage hoping to ensnare him. This was all private. But now he tells Jonathan and his servants, we need to kill him.

Saul knew nothing of the fact that Jonathan had entered into a covenant friendship relationship with David (I Sam. 18:3). He had no idea concerning the friendship and loyalty Jonathan had to David.

What is good to know here is that when people are viciously attacking you and plotting against you, God is still sovereign and He is still looking out for you and protecting you.

PERSON INTERACTION #2 – Jonathan does not want David dead. 19:1b-5

Quite an amazing friendship had formed between Jonathan and David, and Jonathan “greatly delighted” in David. Someone has said adversity will show you who your real friends are. Jonathan did not want to see David dead. He knew David was an innocent man and this was a total and complete misrepresentation of his character.

When Saul revealed to Jonathan he wanted David dead, he took three specific actions:

Specific Action #1 - Jonathan told David. 19:2a

Jonathan wanted David to know the truth; he had a right to know it. His own father was out to kill him. So he told David. That is a good friend. He knew his father was wrong and he knew about the dangers David knew nothing about, so he told him.

Many years ago, when we were in Calvary church in Grand Rapids, George Gardiner told the story of a time when some people were secretly meeting to get rid of him and he knew nothing of it. Well a good friend found out about it and went to Pastor Gardiner and told him. That friend was a Jonathan type friend.

Specific Action #2 - Jonathan instructed David. 19:2b-3

Now Jonathan had a plan and he instructed David of three things:

- 1) Be on guard in the morning. 19:2b
- 2) Stay put in a secret hiding place. 19:2c
- 3) Jonathan would stand beside his father in the field the next day and report to David. 19:3

There are three observations we want to make:

1. The sovereignty of God does not eliminate the need and responsibility for self-protection.

Saul and his people want David dead and David needed to conceal himself and not walk out in the open where he could get shot. **God’s sovereignty never replaces human responsibility.** It is true that God does look out for His people and can sovereignly intervene, but God’s people do have a brain and they need to protect themselves.

2. A good friend will tell you the truth about what is going on behind your back. Many times people listen to others and learn of something negative but don’t do anything about it. A good friend will inform you.

3. A good friend will defend you and protect you and stand with you.

Jonathan would act as an intermediary between his father and David. He would come to David’s defense and would not even let his own father get away with attacking David.

There will be times you face enemies and hostility. God will always protect His people.

Specific Action #3 - Jonathan admonished Saul. **19:4-5**

Now Jonathan was not afraid to look Saul in the eyes and say, “You are wrong.” There are three realities that Jonathan pointed out to Saul:

(Reality #1) - What you want to do to David is sin. **19:4a, 5a**

Jonathan does not water this down and he does not mince words. He said to his father not only is your desire to kill David wrong, it is sin.

Jonathan calls this straight. This matter was not just a misunderstanding between Saul and David; it was sin. Sometimes people need to be point blank told that.

(Reality #2) - What you need to know is that David has not sinned against you. **19:4b**

To kill David would mean to kill innocent blood. The only reason Saul wants David dead is his jealousy. David had done nothing to merit this. You cannot blame any of this on David. This is Saul’s problem.

(Reality #3) - What you need to know is that David has been very beneficial for you. **19:4c-5**

David had risked his own life fighting for Saul when no one else would fight for Saul. David turned all Israel around to support Saul and his efforts against the Philistines.

David was a real asset to Saul’s leadership and Saul is so jealous he wants David dead.

When people are out of touch with the word of God and will of God, they can begin to become bizarre in their thinking. They can reverse things. The good is viewed as bad and the bad is viewed as good.

PERSON INTERACTION #3 – Saul changes his mind against David. **19:6**

Notice the text says Saul “vowed.” What Saul is doing is making a promise that David will not ever be put to death. He prefaces the vow with “As the Jehovah (LORD) lives.” Which would mean this is an eternal vow because God lives forever.

But of course we have learned Saul’s word is no good. He agrees to do right for a short time but by the time we get to **verse 10**, he fires another spear at David.

People who are not right with God often are emotional, irrational and unstable. They make promises they will not keep. You cannot trust those people and need to be on guard against them.

PERSON INTERACTION #4 – Jonathan informs David. 19:7

Jonathan went to David's hideout and informed him of the discussion he had with Saul and of Saul's reaction.

As a result, David was again restored to play music for Saul. For just one moment in David's life, the death threat was lifted. However, it won't be long until Saul will try to kill him again.

Now these troubles for David are all permitted by God to develop him to the point where he would have a character that would totally depend on God. It takes trouble and hazards to develop him and it takes the same thing to develop us.