

Don't Kill Saul – He Might Be Your Best Friend!

1 Samuel 18:10-11 - CEV

¹⁰ The next day the Lord let an evil spirit take control of Saul, and he began acting like a crazy man inside his house. David came to play the harp for Saul as usual, but this time Saul had a spear in his hand. ¹¹ Saul thought, "I'll pin David to the wall." He threw the spear at David twice, but David dodged and got away both times.

1 Samuel 18:29 - CEV

²⁹ But knowing those things made Saul even more afraid of David, and he was David's enemy for the rest of his life.

1 Samuel 19:1-3 – CEV - Saul Tries To Have David Killed

¹⁹ One day, Saul told his son Jonathan and his officers to kill David. But Jonathan liked David a lot, ²⁻³ and he warned David, "My father is trying to have you killed, so be very careful. Hide in a field tomorrow morning, and I'll bring him there. Then I'll talk to him about you, and if I find out anything, I'll let you know."

1 Samuel 19:9-10 – CEV - David Escape's

⁹⁻¹⁰ One night, David was in Saul's home, playing the harp for him. Saul was sitting there, holding a spear, when an evil spirit from the Lord took control of him. Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear, but David dodged, and it stuck in the wall. David ran out of the house and escaped.

1 Samuel 23:8-9 - CEV

⁶⁻⁸ Meanwhile, Saul heard that David was in Keilah. "God has let me catch David," Saul said. "David is trapped inside a walled town where the gates can be locked." Saul decided to go there and surround the town, in order to trap David and his men. He sent messengers who told the towns and villages, "Send men to serve in Saul's army!"

By this time, Abiathar had joined David in Keilah and had brought along everything he needed to get answers from God.

⁹ David heard about Saul's plan to capture him, and he told Abiathar, "Let's ask God what we should do."

1 Samuel 23:14 – CEV - Jonathan Says David Will Be King

¹⁴ David stayed in hideouts in the hill country of Ziph Desert. Saul kept searching, but God never let Saul catch him.

1 Samuel 23:25 - CEV

²⁵ Saul and his army set out to find David. But David heard that Saul was coming, and he went to a place called The Rock, one of his hideouts in Maon Desert. Saul found out where David was and started closing in on him

Pursue: a primitive root; to *run after* (usually with hostile intent; figurative [of time] *gone by*) :- chase, put to flight, follow (after, on), hunt, (be under) persecute (-ion, -or), pursue (-r).

1 Samuel 24:1-7 – CEV - David Lets Saul Live

24 When Saul got back from fighting off the Philistines, he heard that David was in the desert around En-Gedi. ² Saul led three thousand of Israel's best soldiers out to look for David and his men near Wild Goat Rocks at En-Gedi. ³ There were some sheep pens along the side of the road, and one of them was built around the entrance to a cave. Saul went into the cave to relieve himself.

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave. ⁴ They whispered to David, "The Lord told you he was going to let you defeat your enemies and do whatever you want with them. This must be the day the Lord was talking about."

David sneaked over and cut off a small piece^[a] of Saul's robe, but Saul didn't notice a thing. ⁵ Afterwards, David was sorry that he had even done that, ⁶⁻⁷ and he told his men, "Stop talking foolishly. We're not going to attack Saul. He's my king, and I pray that the Lord will keep me from doing anything to harm his chosen king."

Saul left the cave and started down the road.

1 Samuel 26:2-4 - CEV

² Saul took three thousand of Israel's best soldiers and went to look for David there in Ziph Desert. ³ Saul set up camp on Mount Hachilah, which is across the road from Jeshimon. But David was hiding out in the desert.

When David heard that Saul was following him, ⁴ he sent some spies to find out if it was true.

David had great respect for Saul, in spite of the fact that Saul was trying to kill him.

Although Saul was sinning and rebelling against God, David still respected the position he held as God's anointed king.

David knew he would one day be king, and he also knew it was not right to strike down the man God had placed on the throne.

If he assassinated Saul, he would be setting a precedent for his own opponents to remove him some day.

Romans 13:1-7 - Teaches that God has placed the government and its leaders in power.

- We may not know why, but, like David,
- We are to respect the positions and roles of those to whom God has given authority.
- **There is one exception, however -**
- Because **God is our highest authority -**
- We should not allow a leader to pressure us to violate God's law.

Although Saul pursued David – In David's eyes Saul was not the enemy.

Although pursued by Saul David drew his strength from God.

- **God encouraged him!!!**
- David's friends strengthened him.
- David needed to stay "prayed up"...
- **At every turn David needed to enquire of the Lord's will...**

Later in life **after Saul died – David became king.**

However, during the time Saul pursued him it is said that David behaved himself wisely, and then David behaved himself more wisely....

Now that David ***did not*** have an adversary – ***he became weak and lethargic spiritually.***

2 Samuel 11:1 – CEV - David and Bathsheba

11 It was now spring, the time when kings go to war. David sent out the whole Israelite army under the command of Joab and his officers. They destroyed the Ammonite army and surrounded the capital city of Rabbah, **but David stayed in Jerusalem.**

David became so successful that ***he no longer felt he had to go out to battle...***

Enter Bathsheba...

David had become ***so deceived*** (*comfortable as a result of not having a Saul to keep him on the right track*) that ***he committed adultery and murder.***

The Prayed-up David ***would not have been tempted.***

The pursued David ***would not have succumbed to temptation.***

*****David... *Don't kill Saul he might be your best friend...***

1 Peter 5:8 - NKJV

⁸ Be sober, be ***vigilant***; because your ***adversary*** the devil walks about like a roaring lion, ***seeking*** whom he may ***devour***.

Adversary: an *opponent* (in a lawsuit); specially *Satan* (as the arch-enemy) :- adversary.

Vigilant: to *keep awake*, i.e. *watch* (literal or figurative) :- be vigilant, wake, (be) watch (-ful).

Seeking: to *seek* (literal or figurative); (in a bad sense) to *plot* (against life) endeavour, enquire (for), seek (after, for, means).

Devour: *katapino*, 🍷 *kat-ap-ee'-no*; from Greek 2596 (*kata*) and Greek 4095 (*pino*); to *drink down*, i.e. *gulp entire* (literal or figurative) :- devour, drown, swallow (up).

Sometimes our enemies are not – our enemies that is...

Saul – Paul in the New Testament had a “**thorn in the flesh...**”

He sought its removal – but God had a better plan.

2 Corinthians 12:6-10 - CEV

⁶ Yet even if I did brag, I would not be foolish. I would simply be speaking the truth. But I will try not to say too much. That way, none of you will think more highly of me than you should because of what you have seen me do and say. ⁷ **Of course, I am now referring to the wonderful things I saw. One of Satan’s angels was sent to make me suffer terribly, so that I would not feel too proud.**^[a]

⁸ ***Three times I begged the Lord to make this suffering go away.*** ⁹ ***But he replied, “My kindness is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.” So if Christ keeps giving me his power, I will gladly brag about how weak I am.*** ¹⁰ Yes, I am glad to be weak or insulted or mistreated or to have troubles and sufferings, if it is for Christ. Because when I am weak, I am strong.

Enemies – calamities – torment – thorns – ALL are Saul’s!!!!!!

Aren’t they all the same thing?

But wait...

As long as there is a Saul – you will keep praying and seeking God.

- I am **not suggesting** that we make friends with Saul...
- I **am however suggesting** that we stop complaining about Saul and thank God for him...

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 - NKJV

¹² Therefore let **him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.** ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but **God is faithful**, who **will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that **you may be able to bear it.**

Close:

Just like our example today with David...

- We must stay focused and not become lazy or complacent...
- We must stay the course and finish well...

Remember God said David was a man after his own heart!!!!

- This amounts to turning from
- Repenting of our sins...
- Focusing and re-focusing on Christ day after Day!!!!

We now open the Altar as a place of repentance

We also at this time open the baptismal for those who wish to come forward and profess a new beginning IN Christ!!!!

Christ makes ALL things NEW 😊