

"Crutches Removed"

Part 1

1 Samuel 19

Introduction: Today we are going to look at a message from the life of David and before I begin, I need to show you how God viewed David.

1 Samuel 13:13-14

¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

*¹⁴ But now thy kingdom shall not continue: **the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart,** and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*

- David comes on the scene as he is anointed by Samuel to be the next king of Israel.
- He is then summoned by Saul's men to play the harp for Saul.
- Israel then entered into battle with the Philistines and David defeated Goliath.
- David then became a military commander set over the soldiers of Saul.
- David went wherever Saul sent him and he was victorious over the Philistines.

Notice 1 Samuel 18:5-9

Saul hated David because he felt threatened by him. Saul then developed another plan.

Notice 1 Samuel 18:20-27

"The Removal of David's Crutches"

Even people who are after God's own heart can become dependent upon certain crutches. We lean on people, finances, occupations, positions, and the list goes on. God wants us to lean upon Him and so sometimes He must remove the crutches from our lives so that we learn to lean more upon Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

The crutches which we develop in life keep us from fully depending upon the Lord. We end up feeling secure because of finances, position, power, or certain connections. The removal of the crutches is a necessity, but the removal of the crutches can be very painful as we shall see.

David had many crutches in his life. God is going to remove them one by one as He prepares him to be crowned king.

David and Saul

Notice 1 Samuel 19:1

David has gone from being a poor shepherd to the top military man of the king. But here we see that Saul gives an order to have David put to death.

When this order is given it is important to notice that not one person stands up and declares that this is not right. Jonathan will speak with his father in a moment but not one other person will take a stand against this order. They know it is wrong. They have all enjoyed the blessings that have come because of David. They have been freed from Goliath, and they have victory over the Philistines. So, why will no one speak up?

The answer is because they fear losing their positions under the king. They fear that Saul will make life difficult for them or even have them executed. Therefore, they refuse to say a word. To them it is better to allow wicked to prevail than to stand for righteousness.

Application:

Let us never fall into this state!

Proverbs 15:16

¹⁶ Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.

Proverbs 16:8

⁸ Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

Notice 1 Samuel 19:2-6

Jonathan did something here that would not have been easy. He confronted his own father and reminded him of how he himself benefitted from the works of David. He reminded Saul that it was a sin to kill David because David was an innocent man. In verse 6 it appears as though Saul was consenting to Jonathan's reasoning.

Application:

Let us be reminded that there will be times when we must stand against family. This is far more difficult than standing against a stranger. But to keep a loved one from walking down a certain path of destruction we must be willing to stand for the Truth. It may not always be appreciated or accepted but it will always be honored by the Lord.

Notice 1 Samuel 19:7-10

Let us be sure to mark the words "DAVID FLED".

There is something missing here in David's life. That is that he did not seek the wisdom of God. He seems to have forgotten that God had chosen him to be the next king of Israel. So, what we see here is that FEAR has taken over in David's mind and he never seeks the will of God.

Application:

There are going to be times in life when we are faced with situations that are not comfortable. But let us be incredibly careful about allowing fear to control us. Let us learn to trust in the Lord and before we flee let us look to the Lord. Let me remind you of a few spiritual Truths.

1 Timothy 1:7

⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

James 1:2-8

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

James 4:13-16

¹³ Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

¹⁵ For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

¹⁶ But now ye rejoyce in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

Now let us get back to David.

This was the removal of the first crutch. David has now lost his position in Saul's army. This would have been very difficult because David went from a poor shepherd to the top commander in Saul's army and he was very successful as the commander. He was very popular with the people. Now he has no job. His position has now been taken away as he flees for his life. David lost something else and that was his identity.

Ask a woman to tell you about herself and she will tell you about her family. Ask a man to tell you about himself and he will tell you what he does. There is a sense of pride in a man concerning what he does. David has lost all of this. God has allowed this crutch to be taken away. God wants David to lean upon Him and not his position.

David and Michal

Notice 1 Samuel 19:11

David flees to the place where he expects to find peace and comfort. He goes to his home and to his wife. Saul sends men to surround David's house and his wife tells him he needs to flee because if he does not, he will die in the morning.

Notice 1 Samuel 19:12

Here again we read that DAVID FLED. Now we need to see what David's wife did after he fled away.

Notice 1 Samuel 19:13-17

Michal lied to her father. This too was out of fear. The fear which was resting on David had now overtaken his wife.

Application:

The Danger of Fear

Fear is a contagious disease and Satan will use it will cause people to turn to sin in an attempt to escape what is perceived as danger. I want to take you to the life of Nehemiah. He was sent by God to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem after the captivity. He and the builders were met with great resistance from two men, Tobiah and Sanballat. They did all they could to strike fear in Nehemiah and the builders.

Nehemiah 6:9-13

⁹ *For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.*

¹⁰ *Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.*

¹¹ *And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.*

¹² *And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.*

¹³ *Therefore was he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and that they might have matter for an evil report, that they might reproach me.*

Satan knows that fear is very contagious.

Numbers 13:30-14:1

³⁰ *And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

³¹ *But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.*

³² *And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.*

³³ *And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

¹And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

Conclusion:

David was stripped of two important crutches.

- **His position.**
- **His wife.**

God had permitted this to happen because he was refining David for his position as King of Israel.

- ✓ Sometimes God removes our crutches as He refines us. He wants us to lean fully upon Him.
- ✓ Sometimes it may just be to loosen our ties to this world. He wants us to long for our eternal home.