



“REASONS TO REJOICE”

*“Your Words were found, and I ate them,
and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16*

I and II SAMUEL Lesson 10

In our lesson last week, David successfully fought Goliath, bringing honor and glory to the God of Israel. I'm sure Saul was impressed, to say the least. I Samuel chapter 17 comes to a close with David standing before Saul, holding his trophy, the head of the giant. (Yuck!) Saul decides to enlist David into full-time service. No more going home to take care of sheep. He would now work for Saul full-time.

Chapters 18-20 show us the transition between David's service in Saul's court and his exile as a fugitive. David moves from being Saul's favorite to being his worst enemy. When envy and jealousy creep into a man's heart, terrible things will happen. As you read, notice Saul's heart and actions towards David, but also note the response of David.

There are many, many lessons for us in these next few chapters. Make sure you begin with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand how He wants you to apply these truths to your own heart.

First Day

This week we will be reading chapters 18-20, studying this section as a whole. Have a great week!

- 1. Read I Samuel 18:1-30. Observe the text. Write down any key words or phrases that you find. What is the main thought or point of this chapter? What would you title it?*

- 2. Explain the relationship between Jonathan and David. (Remember that Jonathan was Saul's son; I Samuel 14:49)*

3. *Why do you think Saul's heart changed toward David?*
4. *List all the different ways that Saul tried to kill or have David killed.*
5. *Name all the people in the chapter who loved or admired David.*
6. *How did David behave all through the chapter, according to verses 5, 14, and 30? What do you think that means?*

Saul became filled with jealousy as he watched David being blessed by the Lord and loved by the people. I think he began to fear David because he knew it was he that would be taking over his throne. Although he feared David, his problem was really with the Lord. F. B. Meyer notes: "Samuel had distinctly told him that the Lord had rent the kingdom of Israel from him and had given it to a neighbor that was better than himself. And, without doubt, as he saw the stripling return with Goliath's head in his hand, and as he heard the song of the Israelite women, the dread certainty suggested itself to him that this was the divinely designated king. He supposed that if only he could take David's life, God's purpose would miscarry and Samuel's predictions be falsified."

What a contrast we see between Saul and his son Jonathan. By all rights, Jonathan should have been the heir to the throne. He also had reason to be jealous. Instead, he not only loved David, he made a covenant with him and gave him his royal garb. It is believed that these gifts symbolized that Jonathan was giving himself to David. Maybe he was acknowledging that David was a member of the royal family, recognizing the fact that it would be David that would succeed Saul, not him.

The term "covenant" can refer to treaties between nations, contracts between individuals, marriage vows, and pacts between friends. A covenant suggests loyalty, commitment, and mutual love and responsibility. Jonathan and David seemed to share a mutual covenant between them.

7. *List some of the dangers of allowing envy or jealousy to remain in your heart. How can they progress? Share any Scriptures that apply.*

8. *Saul was jealous that God was using David in such a mighty way. Have you ever been jealous over what God is doing in someone else's life? What should you do if you recognize it?*

Let's end here for today. Saul is a scary man, but it's scarier to recognize our own sins as we look at his life, isn't it? Let's ask the Lord to reveal any roots of envy or jealousy in our own hearts, that we might walk before Him with a pure heart.

Memory Verse of the Week: *"But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble." Psalm 59:16*

Second Day

Review your memory verse. Isn't it beautiful?

Today we will be discussing chapter 18 again, concentrating on envy and jealousy. (Sound fun?)

1. *Read I Samuel 18 again. What was Saul so envious of?*
2. *What are some things that we can become envious of in others?*
3. *Read Galatians 5:19-26 and contrast the works of the flesh with those of the Spirit. Which describe Saul? What about you? Are there any works of the flesh evident in your life? How can we walk in the Spirit, according to verse 24.*

The praise of men didn't seem to puff up David's heart. Wiersbe said, "Praise is like a hot furnace: it reveals what a person is really made of. The praise that made David humble only brought the dross to the top in Saul's heart and revealed his pride and desire for glory." (Proverbs 27:21)

4. *When people praise you or something you've done, how do you respond? (Who really deserves all the glory and praise?)*

5. *In what ways was David's faith tested in this chapter?*

6. *Do you think his faith was tested more when he stood before the giant or as he stood before Saul daily in his service? Explain your answer?*

7. *When David was demoted (vs 13-14), how did he respond?
When David was disappointed (vs 17-19), how did he respond?
When David was given another "giant size" task, how did he respond?
(vs 25-27)*

8. *What's testing your faith right now? How are you responding to disappointment or discouragement? How is David's response to Saul an example to you?*

9. *Is someone throwing “spears” at you? Should you throw them back, or simply duck? What did Jesus do, according to 1 Peter 2:22-24? Why is “ducking” a good strategy?*

It appears that David may have been one of Saul’s personal bodyguards but was removed from that position (vs 13). Saul’s oldest daughter Merab was promised to David but given to someone else. When Saul found out his other daughter, Michal, loved David, he then saw another way to get David killed by demanding a dowry that was very dangerous to achieve. But God protected David’s life again. (Don’t you think Saul should have just given up?)

When your faith is in the Lord, you don’t have to be shaken. Although David had been lied to and tricked, as well as his very life threatened, he did not seek revenge or allow his heart to become bitter.

10. *What point ministered to you the most in this chapter?*

*David had many “**Reasons to Rejoice,**” didn’t he? Spend some time praising the Lord for all the reasons that He’s given you to rejoice!*

Third Day

What’s your memory verse? How does it speak to your heart?

Today we will begin by reading chapter 19. Remember to read like a detective, pulling out all the facts that you can find to help you understand the story.

- 1. Read I Samuel 19:1-24. Are there any key words or phrases? List some of the main facts in this chapter. What is the main point? What immediate application do you see for yourself?*

It was no longer any secret that Saul was out to kill David. (19:1) As we read these next two chapters, we see God strip David of everything possible to lean on so that he might put his entire trust in Him alone.

- 2. Briefly explain how Jonathan tries to save David's life in verses 1-7. Was Jonathan taking any chances?*

- 3. From what we've seen so far, what kind of man was Jonathan? What kind of friend was Jonathan? What kind of son was Jonathan?*

- 4. Saul's change of heart in verse 6 was short-lived. What happened that made him want to kill David again?*

David fled in verse 10. He was now considered a fugitive. He would live his life like a hunted animal for a time, perhaps 10 years or so. David no longer has a position in the court to hold on to or trust in. Let's see what happens next.

5. *Read verses 11-17 again. Saul's men surrounded David's house. What plan does Michal come up with in an attempt to save David's life?*

The idol, or "teraphim," was probably a life-size, household image. Some believe Michal was hoping that it would help her to get pregnant.

It was an Eastern habit to cover your head while you were sleeping, which would have helped to hide David.

6. *What does the fact that Michal had an idol in the house tell us?*
7. *Do you think what Michal did was right?*
8. *How did she try to cover herself when confronted by her dad in verse 17?*
9. *How was she like, or unlike, her brother?*

God didn't allow David to trust in his wife for protection either. God's plan is always the best plan. He is the only one we can fully depend on.

10. *Read Psalm 59 for insight into how David was feeling at this time. Which phrases really express his feelings?*

11. *Write a song or a prayer to the Lord, expressing how you feel about whatever “situation” or trial that you’re in. (If you aren’t in a trial, thank Him for that!) Pour out your heart to Him. (Don’t worry, this is private!)*

Fourth Day

Work on memorizing your verse. Let it be the meditation of your heart today.

1. *Read I Samuel 19:18-24 again. Where did David run to next? Briefly explain what happened at Naioth in Ramah.*

The word “Naioth” means “habitations” or “dwellings.” It is probably a group of houses in some section of Ramah where a company of prophets lived. (The NIV Study Bible) David runs to Samuel and tells him everything that Saul is trying to do to him. He tries to hide out in Naioth, but Saul quickly finds out. How interesting it is that all the messengers begin to prophesy when they get to Naioth. The Holy Spirit protects David again, using Saul and his own men to give David time to escape.

2. *Read I Samuel 20:1-42. It’s one entire story, so it is best to read it all at once. What is the main point or thought of this chapter? What are some facts that you find interesting?*

3. *To whom does David run after he flees Naioth? What does he want him to find out?*

4. *Why didn't Jonathan think that Saul was really trying to kill David?*

5. *What does David ask Jonathan to do? Describe the plan.*

6. *Explain the covenant that David and Jonathan make. What do they promise to do? How long will it last? Who was called upon to watch over the covenant?*

Verse 5 refers to the New Moon. This is a festival that Israel celebrates on the first day of each month to consecrate that month to the Lord. They offer special sacrifices, blow trumpets, and rest from their work (Numbers 10:10, 28:11-15).

7. *Was David missed at the feast? How did Saul respond when Jonathan told him he went home to Bethlehem?*

8. *What did Jonathan finally understand? How did he communicate the truth to David?*

9. *Was Jonathan afraid of his dad? Why or why not?*
10. *Was Jonathan upset over his father's hatred of David?*
11. *Do you think Jonathan was being disrespectful to his father? Was he honoring his father by questioning him about David? Give Scriptures for your answer, if possible.*
12. *Describe David and Jonathan's parting scene. (What a tear-jerker!)*
13. *Have you ever been separated from a very close friend? How did you respond? Are you committed to praying for her? How did the Lord use that experience in your life for growth?*
- David couldn't depend or trust in his friend to save him from his trouble. Again, the Lord is our all in all. What a growing time for David this must've been.*
14. *Has the Lord ever stripped you of everything, forcing you to only depend on Him? What was the biggest lesson you learned?*

We'll end here for today. Tomorrow we're going to look at the model of friendship that Jonathan and David are for us. Take a few minutes and pray for one of your friends or family members that have moved away. Ask the Lord to "be between you and them while you are apart."

Fifth Day

Write your verse from memory. I know it's long, but it's great! He certainly is our refuge in times of trouble!

1. *Let's talk about friendships today, shall we? What lessons can we learn about friendships from Jonathan and David?*

2. *Do you think God is concerned with our friendships?*

3. *What qualities do you think are essential in maintaining a good friendship that is pleasing to the Lord?*

4. *What kind of friend are you? (Be honest) Are you loyal, committed, and honest? Are you willing to hold your friend accountable for the things of the Lord? Will you stick by her side, even if it's not popular? (Assuming that they are in the right, of course.*

5. *Can friendships be costly at times? How? Was Jonathan's costly?*

In verse 15, Jonathan asks David not to "cut off his kindness." They were to treat each other with "hesed," which means kindness, loving-kindness, steadfast love, mercy, and loyalty. This word appears many times in the Old Testament to describe how God treats His covenant people and the way they are supposed to treat Him and each other. David wanted Jonathan to show him "hesed" by saving his life. Jonathan wanted David to show him "hesed" by not wiping out his family when he became king.

6. *Do you have a friend that's going through a difficult time? What are some ways that you can show your friend "hesed"?*

Do you want a friend? Then be one!