

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Feb. 13

### MONDAY

Saul revealed his evil scheme. He told David that the dowry for marrying his daughter Michal was the foreskins of 100 Philistines. David had to kill them first, of course, and Saul was certain that he would die in the attempt. David, evidently, loved Michal enough to accept the challenge! And he and his men went out and killed 200 Philistines! (twice the love?) After he delivered the foreskins to Saul, the king could do nothing other than give David his daughter Michal.

#### READ: I Samuel 18:25-27

We must recognize the 200-instead-of-100 to be, not sarcasm nor egotism, but a gesture of goodness. It's as if David were saying, "For the right to honor your daughter, I would gladly do much more." Then he actually went out and did much more! The application in all this? We need to be a people who do much more. "To whom much has been given, much is expected." We want to be God's man or God's woman who out-gives, out-loves, out-shines, out-everything else in all that is good and godly. The extra mile every time. For God's glory. Amen?

### TUESDAY

Saul's hatred of David heats up. David had more or less embarrassed Saul by killing twice as many enemies as required, and ended up with Michal after all. The straw that broke the camel's back was that Michal, Saul's own flesh and blood, loved David! (and probably was not all that crazy about her father for what he had tried to do to David) Fighting against the Philistines continued and David won the admiration of all by his action and leadership on the field of battle.

#### READ: I Samuel 18:28-30

God takes the best laid plans of mice and men (and Saul!) and uses them for His own glory, to accomplish His great and mighty purposes! So it is in our daily lives. God's at work in our lives for our eternal good! The most evil intentions of our mightiest enemy fit perfectly into what God has for us. Those intentions may come to naught as they did here in David's case. Or they may come with great fury and vengeance. But they come with "God In Control" stamped all over them. Praise His Holy Name! He is in control this day! I will not fear tomorrow. I will not fear the king for I know the King! I will walk through the valley and keep walking, for I walk with the King! And He rules in majesty and power in my life!

### WEDNESDAY

Saul's plans to date to kill David had failed. Now he became more desperate. He instructed his son and all his servants that, if they have the chance, they should kill David. His son Jonathan immediately warned David and told him to hide. Jonathan promised to reason with his father the next day when they were out in the field, and then to tell David what his father said.

#### READ: I Samuel 19:1-3

Despite the risk, Jonathan warned David of trouble. True friends are willing to take a risk. Jonathan decided to wait until the next day to approach his father. Maybe the king was drunk. Or perhaps he was simply too worked up to be reasonable. Whatever, Jonathan used wisdom in timing his intercession. Applying wisdom, and exercising a willingness to go out on a limb for a friend, these are what we see in Jonathan. And these are what characterizes genuine friendship. Let it be so with my friendships!

### THURSDAY

In the fields the next day, Jonathan reminded his father of some of the good things David had done, & asked him why he was so intent on killing David. Saul's response plea was good: he apparently repented of what he had said and he promised not to kill him. Jonathan reported all this to David & then brought him back into the palace even back before the king. Things were once again as they were in the old days.

#### READ: I Samuel 19:4-7

Jonathan's respective and gentle approach to his father is effective. He reminded his father of David's loyalty in days past, of his father's own happiness with what David had done, and all the great debt owed to David -- saving all Israel the way he had. He reasoned with his father that such loyalty and such deeds of valor should not be re-paid with execution. Does a gentle answer always turn away wrath? Maybe not, but there will be times when they do. Like maybe today sometime.

### FRIDAY

Once again, David led his troops to a great victory. When he returned to Jerusalem, Saul seemed his old self and David resumed playing the harp in the royal throne room. (therapy for Saul's troubled mind) Suddenly, one day, Saul threw his spear at him. But he missed and David was able to escape. Back at home, David thought he was safe but Saul sent soldiers to watch the house with orders to kill him when he went out in the morning. David's wife, Michal, (she was Saul's daughter, remember) learned of the plan and helped David sneak away in the night without the soldiers knowing.

#### READ: I Samuel 19:8-12

Are you surprised to find David back in the throne room? He has already dodged one spear attack there. Whatever possessed him to return? (Ask "who" possessed him!) It must have been God's Spirit. Because it is God's Spirit who causes us to keep on doing good even in the face of evil. It is God's Spirit who stirs us on to good works even when we become weary of them, or wary of them. It is God's Spirit who's "moving in my heart today", as the old spiritual puts it. He's moving in our hearts today, to keep us doing what is right, good, and godly. Regardless of who's trying to pin something on us. (or in us, as in David's case)

### SATURDAY

In the morning, when David had not yet appeared, Saul sent his troops to David's house. Michal told them that David was sick in bed, but Saul demanded that they bring him. When they went into the bedroom, they discovered a ruse: Michal had put a sort of home-made wig on one of her idols and had put that in David's bed with a blanket over it. Saul demanded an explanation from his daughter and she told him that David had threatened her and made her do it.

#### READ: I Samuel 19:13-17

Remember how Michal came to be David's wife? Saul gave her to him so that "she might become a snare unto him." Amazing, eh?! Here, Satan gets shot in the foot with his own bow, so to speak. The would-be snare becomes David's salvation! True, neither David nor God needed Michal's lie, deceit, and trickery, but is it not an awesome thing to see how God took something the king designed for wicked purposes and simply turned everything around according to His own pleasure? That's what He does with our lives, as well. He turns things around, just as He turned us around, and He uses us for His glory.