

DAVID SHOWS MERCY!

Junior High Lesson September 20th



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Story Overview: Saul continued to be jealous of David. He hunted him and tried to kill him. David had raised his own armies and could have fought Saul but he did not. He respected Saul as king. David trusted the Lord to know when it was time for him to become king. Once, David came upon Saul's camp and found Saul sleeping. He quietly took Saul's spear and water jug to prove to Saul how close he had been. After walking a long distance away, David called to Saul and told him that he could have killed him but chose to show mercy. Mercy is showing kindness even though we have the power or opportunity to hurt someone. In the story below David has another chance to take Saul's life. He crept up on Saul in a cave and cut off the hem of his garment, but did not harm him though he could have. His men were disappointed David did not take revenge, here is the story from 1 Samuel 24. Have someone from your family read:

1 Samuel 24:3-29

He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. 4 The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said[b] to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. 6 He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord." 7 With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.⁸ Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. 9 He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'? 10 This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed.' 11 See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. 12 May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. 13 As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you. When David finished saying this, Saul asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?" And he wept aloud. 17 "You are more righteous than I," he said. "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. 18 You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. 19 When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. 20 I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. 21 Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family." 22 So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Questions for Discussion:

1. **Why do you think Saul was so jealous of David?**
2. **David had two chances to take Saul's life, why didn't he?**
3. **Why did David cut off the hem of Saul's garment in the cave?**
4. **What was David trying to prove to Saul?**
5. **How did Saul react when he realized that David had spared his life? Why was he so sad?**
6. **What was his final request of David?**

Practical Applications for Your Life:

1. **How can you learn from David's example when he spared Saul's life? is there anyone in your life that people think you should "get back at?"**
2. **Why is it so important to show people mercy rather than getting revenge ?**
3. **What did David's treatment of Saul show about his relationship with God?**
4. **When you treat others like David treated Saul showing them mercy, do you think that gives people an example of your relationship with God?**
5. **Who do you need to forgive this week, even if they tried to hurt you first?**

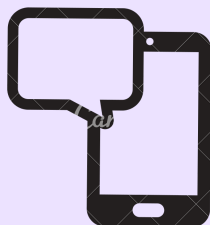
Share your highs and lows from this past week. Close in pray for each other giving God thanks for your highs and asking God to be with you in your lows and committing to keeping your eyes on Jesus.

Join us Wednesday @ 7pm on Zoom

BIBLE STUDY, GAMES AND FRIENDS

Click Here To Join the Meeting?

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WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

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