

King Saul's Jealousy Part Two

"Jonathan, where are you? I must speak to you at once!" cried David.
"I'm here in my room, David. Come in," Jonathan answered.

After the defeat of the giant, Goliath, David had come to live at King Saul's House. David and Jonathan, Saul's own son, were as close as brothers. Jonathan had even given David his own special armor to wear in the war.

"Jonathan, I'm worried about your father," said David. "He seems troubled again. Ever since we came back from the battle with Goliath, he acts different towards me."

"I think you're wrong, David. My father is happy now that our enemies are being defeated. Why, he's even made you captain in his own army. Things couldn't be better!" replied Jonathan.

"I have an idea. Remember when I used to play my harp for him when he was feeling depressed? I think I'll try that again and see if his mood will brighten," said David.

So David brought his harp and began to play for King Saul. At first, the music seemed to soothe his dark mood. But suddenly, Saul took out his spear and flung it right at David! David jumped out of the way just in time. He ran to find Jonathan.

"Jonathan! Jonathan! I don't know what I could have done to make your father so angry. He just tried to kill me!" David cried.

"I just can't understand it, David. There's no reason. I'll go and talk to my father," Jonathan promised.

Jonathan found his father sitting all alone in the courtroom. He looked peaceful enough. Then Jonathan saw his father's spear just a few feet away stuck in the wall.

"Father, what is the matter? Why do you hate David? He risked his own life to save our people from Goliath. Hasn't David proven his loyalty?" Jonathan asked.

"I don't know what came over me. I do love David. He belongs here with our family. Please tell David that I'm sorry," Saul answered.

But King Saul was not really sorry. He was jealous of David's popularity with the people. So he thought of another scheme to get rid of David. He called one of his servants to him.

Saul said, "I have heard that David loves my daughter, Michal. Tell David that if he will defeat one hundred Philistines in battle, I will grant him my daughter's hand in marriage."

Saul secretly hoped that David would be killed in the war.

"If David is dead, then the people of Israel will have only me to praise," Saul plotted.

But, once again, God was with David in the battle, and he returned in victory. He defeated two hundred Philistines! King Saul had no choice but to keep his promise. David married Michal, and even after that, Saul still planned to kill him.

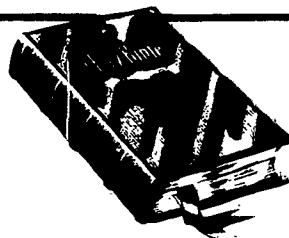
Saul ordered some of his servants to assassinate David. When Michal discovered her father's evil plans, she helped David escape.

"Go, David and may God be with you. I'll get a message to you when it's safe to return," Michal promised.

Once again, Jonathan tried to talk to his father, but it was no use. Saul had become so jealous of David that it did something to his mind. He started to think that David was an enemy of the people of Israel. Saul planned to organize his own army to find David and kill him.

"Don't you understand, Jonathan?" Saul shouted. "Can't you see what David is trying to do? You are supposed to be the next king of Israel. But David is going to steal the honor from you. David must die!"

Jonathan secretly met David in the



The Bible Corner Cindy Cottone

wilderness. They were both very upset at what happened.

"David, I'm so sorry," Jonathan said. "You are my best friend and I'll miss you. But if you stay, I am certain my father will kill you. Even now he is getting his army ready to find you."

"Oh, Jonathan, how can I ever thank you? You've been so good to me. I'll never forget you. You be careful, too. Goodbye, my friend."

David was forced to go far from his home. Many of his friends came to stay with him and to protect him from King Saul. One night they were camped inside a cave. When they heard noise outside, they woke David. David crept to the opening of the cave. Just below them King Saul and his entire army were sleeping!

"Now's your chance, David! You can kill Saul and be rid of your enemy forever," his men urged him.

David took his sword and stole very carefully to the spot where Saul was sleeping. The men watched as David drew his sword. But then he did something strange. Instead of killing Saul, David cut off a piece of his coat and came back to the cave with it! The next morning David stood at the entrance to the cave and called down to Saul.

"Saul, why do you still pursue me? Last night God placed you at my mercy. I stood right over you while you slept. It would have been so easy to kill you. But instead, I only cut off a piece of your coat to prove my loyalty, Saul. I would never harm the Lord's chosen king."

When Saul heard what David had said he began to cry.

"I'm sorry, David," Saul sobbed. "I have repaid your goodness with evil. It is

I who deserve to die. I hope you will forgive me. Some day I know that you will be the king of Israel. Please do not harm my family because of me."

David promised and Saul returned home. The war with the Philistines continued for many years. David missed Jonathan, but he never saw him again. He continued to fight bravely, and David always thanked God for the victories. One day he learned that King Saul and Jonathan had both been killed in the war. David mourned their loss deeply. He and his men prayed and fasted for several days. Saul's reign as the first king of Israel had now ended.

For discussion:

- 1) Why was King Saul trying to kill David? Why was he so jealous?
- 2) Why did Jonathan try to help David instead of his own father?
- 3) What did David do when he discovered King Saul and his armies camped below the cave? Why didn't David kill Saul?
- 4) Did David forgive Saul? Why?
- 5) Should we forgive those who do wrong to us? Why?

For Lent:

It is very difficult to forgive someone who has wronged us for no reason. Spend some time this week thinking of someone who needs forgiveness. Pray to God for helping you forgive.

For Further Reading:

- 1) The story of King Saul's jealousy and its results is found in the Old Testament in Samuel, Chapters 18-20 and 24.
- 2) Read, in the New Testament, Matthew, Chapter 18:21-22 and Luke, Chapter 17:4. What does Jesus say about forgiving?

Volunteers Needed

Adult volunteers are needed to work with children and adolescents at St. Joseph's Villa of Rochester.
An orientation workshop and training

programs are available to help volunteers understand the needs of Villa residents. Call Marianne Virgilio (716)865-1550 for more information.

Tutu-Seavers Lecture

Naomi Tutu-Seavers, daughter of Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu, will speak at St. John Fisher College at 8 p.m. on March 8. She will discuss her

struggles to bring economic and social justice to her native South Africa. The lecture will be held in the Kearney Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

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