

## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

*God is Our Shield ...*

**READ: 1 SAMUEL 19: 1-7, 8-10, 11-17, 18-24**

- s we study this episode in the life of David, I trust that we will be reminded of the ways in which God shields His people from harm.
- **JONATHAN:** The deep bond of friendship that was formed between David and Jonathan became an important escape route from King Saul's plot to kill the young warrior. (1 Sam.18:1)
- Jonathan recognized the anointing of God upon the life of David and he was prepared to relinquish his right to the throne as the king's son.
- Whilst Jonathan was in submission to King Saul his father, he would not turn a blind eye to Saul's murderous schemes. (Prov.31:9)
- He was protective of his friend and watched out for him. He spoke well of David to the King and for a time at least, David was allowed back into the palace.
- There is an important lesson to be learned from this account. Good friendships are used by the Lord to protect us from many evils.
- If we guard our valuable possessions well- should we not value and shield our friendships even more.
- It is good for us to speak well of one another and to support one another in the midst of trials and opposition.
- This is true of all church relationships but particularly of those we feel closest to, those of kindred spirit.
- Ultimately it is the Lord who provides us with the gift of such friends who are concerned for our safety and well-being. (Psa.121:5-8)
- **WORSHIP:** David went out to battle again and was again victorious. King Saul was disturbed by this and became depressed and moody.
- Note that no evil proceeds from God but God allows Satan a limited space to do harm. David held a harp while Saul held a spear.
- David was a man after God's own heart and he worshipped God daily. This proved to be a vital protection against his enemy.
- God appointed the singers to worship the Lord on the day of battle and Israel witnessed a great deliverance. (2 Chron.20:21-22)
- God uses our worship of Him as a means of protecting us from the fiery darts of Satan.

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Week 09

- **MICHAL: As we saw above, you don't have to be married to enjoy the love and protection of a kindred spirit.**
- Michal loved her husband and was protective of him even if her father wanted to kill him. She was prepared to lie to protect David. Notice that her deception and the fact that she had idols in the house are not rebuked.
- Neither David or Michal are being held up as being examples of integrity.
- The main point is that David escaped from the hand of Saul. He wrote Psalm 59 on this occasion. *'But as for me I will sing of Your strength, Yes I shall joyfully sing of Your loving-kindness in the morning, for You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of my distress.'* (V.16)
- God used another shield to protect David. **THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD**
- **David seeks out God's servant Samuel as a counselor in his troubles. He is once again caught up in the Presence of the Lord and God's Spirit is poured out among the prophets**
- **When Saul's servants enter the company, their evil intentions are disarmed by the Presence of the Lord and they were changed into another man**(1 Sam.10:6)
- The same thing is repeated until Saul himself comes. Although he is found to be prophesying also, it is but a temporary change.
- God uses the occasion to bring humiliation to Saul as he lays aside his royal garments.
- No matter what Saul tried to do in order to kill David, the young champion was shielded from harm. God uses many means to protect His children from harm but this episode demonstrates that He will intervene directly when appropriate.
- We are reminded from this passage that God is our shield. A shield is most effective when it is used in the day of battle.
- In *Eph 6* we are urged to hold up the shield of faith so that we can be protected against all the fiery darts of the enemy in the evil day.
- **This is our faith... 'If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son but freely delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the One Who justifies, who is the one who condemns?' (Rom.8:31-34)**