



Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus A Discipleship Journey

The OLD TESTAMENT- Their Story is Our Story
David and Saul- 1 Samuel Chapters 18-28

David and Saul had a difficult relationship. Saul was the reigning king of the Israelites and David was taken into Saul's household, after proving he was a great warrior by killing Goliath. However, Saul was a jealous man. David became a hero to the people, angering Saul. The Israelites sang:

” Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”

Saul's jealousy of David led to his trying to kill David, yet David, when given the opportunity on several occasions, did not harm Saul. On one occasion David was playing his harp to soothe Saul. Saul, in a fit of jealousy, threw his spear at David, trying to kill him. David escaped and Saul became afraid of him since he could see that God was with David. He sent David out to lead his troops in war. David prospered and Saul became more jealous. David escaped and Saul pursued him. Once David was hiding in a cave and Saul came in to relieve himself. David had the opportunity to kill Saul, but instead cut the end off of his cloak and did not harm Saul. Saul repented, but jealousy once again took over and he began to pursue David again. A second time David came across Saul, who was asleep with his spear at his head. David had the opportunity to kill Saul with Saul's own spear, but did not do so. Instead, he took Saul's spear to show him that the opportunity had presented itself. Saul repented, but David knew it would not last and moved away from Saul's reach.

How would we have reacted in this situation? Saul was the king, God's anointed, and a very jealous man. He had lost favor with God and God had anointed David to replace Saul. However, it was not David's place to decide when that would happen. It was God's decision and David honored that. Saul belonged to God and, for that reason, David spared his life twice, forgiving Saul for attempting to murder him. Would we be this forgiving?

How do we treat those people who don't like us, who attempt to harm us in some way, maybe not physically but mentally and emotionally?

Do we forgive those who talk behind our backs, undermine our authority at work, gossip about us?

Do we treat those with different opinions, political views, or ways of living their lives, with the same respect and love that we treat those like ourselves?

Those people, just like us, belong to God and we need to honor that. It is the way of a disciple to do so.