

43. David Spares Saul's Life

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

43. David Spares Saul's Life

- a. Remember that David knew that he had been anointed by Samuel to be king. If he wanted to be king in a hurry, he could easily have killed Saul right then. But he trusted that the Lord would lead him to be king in His, the Lord's good time. And he knew that to kill the king would be wicked, even though the king was wanting to kill him.
- b. Point out how David tried to make peace instead. It's easy to want to pay someone back, but David chose the peaceful way, not the paying-back way.
- c. Note the clever way that David showed Saul that he didn't want to kill him. He could so easily have done so.



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The Lord Helps David Forgive Saul

King Saul was trying to find David to kill him. And the Ziphites came to Saul and said, “David is hiding in the hill of Hachilah near the wilderness.” Then Saul took three thousand soldiers into the wilderness to find David. And Saul camped in the hill but David stayed in the wilderness.

Now David knew that Saul had come after him. So David sent spies to find where Saul was camped, and David said, “Who will come with me to Saul?” Abishai said, “I will.” Then David rose up in the night and came to the place where Saul was. And he saw Saul lying asleep where the carts were, and his men were camped all around him. Saul’s spear was stuck into the earth near his pillow. Then Abishai said to David, “The Lord has given Saul to you. Let me kill him with his spear.” But David said, “He is the king. Let the Lord take care of him. I will not kill him. Take his spear and the jar of water by his head.” So they took Saul’s spear and the water, and they went. And no one saw it and no one woke, because the Lord put a deep sleep on all the people.

Then David went to the top of the mountain and he called to Saul’s soldiers down in the wilderness and said to them, “You did not look after the king well. Someone came in the night and took the king’s spear and the jar of water by his head.” The king recognized David’s voice and he said, “Is that your voice, my son David?” And David answered and said, “It is my voice, O king. Why are you chasing after me? What have I done to you? I have never done you wrong.”

Saul said, “I have done wrong. I will not try to hurt you anymore. You saved my life today.” David answered and said, “Here is your spear, O king. Let one of your young men come and fetch it.”

Then David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

1 Samuel 26

