

Eternity in Your Heart

1 Samuel 20:1-23

November 29, 2009

Intro

As we continue our study through the life of David in 1 Samuel 20, we find David on the run from Saul. At this point, Saul has tried to pin David to the wall by hurling a spear at him twice. When he found out his daughter, Michal, loved David, he agreed to the marriage because he immediately thought of a plot to use it to kill him. Instead of a dowry, Saul asked for the life of 100 Philistines, his enemy. "I will let the Philistines kill him," Saul thought.

But that plot failed as well because David came back victorious after killing 200 Philistines. Saul's plots against David seemed to be backfiring. Instead of defeating David, David's popularity in Israel was increasing, Saul's son, Jonathan, was David's best friend, and then David was married to his daughter. But Saul refused to give up.

So Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, in order to put him to death. But David's wife let him down through a window and he went out and fled and escaped.

David then came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. They both then went to Naioth, a high place just outside of Ramah where Samuel had a school of the prophets. When Saul heard that David was there he sent messengers to take David, but when they came for him the Spirit of God came upon them and they prophesied. Other messengers were sent and they too also prophesied. A third group was sent to take David and they also prophesied. Finally, Saul himself decided to go and take David, but when Saul approached Naioth, he too also prophesied. And so David was able to escape.

Finally, David came back to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my sin that he is seeking my life?" And here it is that we gain insight into David's life and into our life before God as well.

I. Only a Step Away from Death

- 1 David tried to convince Jonathan how serious the threat against him was, and at first Jonathan did not believe it.
- 2 Finally, David said, "As the Lord lives; there is hardly a step between me and death."
- 3 That is a powerful statement that applies to us as well. There is truly only one step between life and death.

A. Our days are ordained by God

- 4 From David's perspective he was only one step from death, but he wouldn't take that step until it was ordained by God.

Psalm 139:16, And in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.

- 5 When we are young, we often have a sense of immortality; we don't even think much about death. But when we get older, we realize we're getting closer.
- 6 And for some people that brings great fear to them.

Hebrews 2:14-15, Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He ... might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

- 7 Other people seem to have no fear of death at all; they seem oblivious to the possibility. For them, there is something exciting about living on the edge. These are the bungee jumping, base jumping, thrill seeking ones who live for excitement.
- 8 Although there was interesting article in Time Magazine about taking risks in life...

Illus – Time Magazine, "The people who face real danger are on the road. If you really want to live on the edge of life, just join the daily commute of thousands of cell phone talking, coffee drinking, texting, makeup applying idiots all driving over the speed limit."

- 9 There is a great quote that someone once sent to me and I don't remember its author, but it is this, "*We live as if we will never die, and then die as if we had never lived.*"

B. Life is a gift, spend it well

- 1 If there is just a step between us and death, and we don't know when that step will happen, then we should spend our lives well.
- 2 It's interesting, how David writes about this in the Psalms.

Psalm 103:15-16, As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, and its place acknowledges it no longer.

- 3 "The place knows it no more." In other words, your bank account won't remember you, your car won't remember, and your golf clubs most certainly won't remember you.
- 4 But heaven will remember you, because how you live your life matters. We have been given a gift and we must spend it well.

Matthew 6:19-21, Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

5 Paul made it very clear how he would spend his life...

2 Corinthians 12:15, And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls.

2 Timothy 4:6, For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

6 Too many people spend so much time trying to accumulate money for themselves that they forget that they are supposed to be spending their lives with godly purpose and meaning.

Luke 12:15-21 Life consists of more than possessions.

Illus- I remember when I was volunteering as a youth leader and then became engaged to be married, so I went to resign as youth leader and was instead challenged by the pastor.

Illus – I remember reading about a surgeon who had decided to practice in Africa. A visiting doctor was amazed at his skill and reminded him about what money he could make in the states....

C. Live with eternity in your heart

7 Too many people are living for this life only.

8 Jesus did tell us that we should live life to the full. In fact, it was one of the reasons he came on this earth.

John 10:10, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

1 But what does it mean to live? Jesus came that we might have a personal relationship to Him because He is life...

John 11:25-26, Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

2 David understood this very well and you can see his heart after God in many of the psalms he wrote. He knew that only in God would he have true life.

Psalm 23:4, 6, Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me...Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 16:11, You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 27:4, One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.

- 3 When Jesus told Martha that he was the resurrection and the life and that he who believes in Him would never die, he gave us an eternal truth.

Illus – Buddha is still in the grave, Muhammad is still in the grave, and Joseph Smith is still in the grave. But there is an empty tomb in Jerusalem that declares that Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

- 4 If I want to talk to someone about life and death, I want to talk to the one who conquered death, to the one for whom the tomb is empty.

II. God is the Rock in the Storm

- 1 The storm in David's life is not getting easier. In fact, this trial will continue for 15 long years.
- 2 But God is making a man of God and trials and difficulties are required.
- 3 Greater calling; the greater the difficulties.

A. We must be able to stand on God alone

- 1 That can have two meanings. It can mean that we must only stand on God, and it can also mean that we must be able to stand on God without anyone else. Both are absolutely true.
- 2 God was taking everything out of David's life that he might have relied upon.
- 3 First, he was taken from his family and lost those closest to him.
- 4 Then, Saul tried to kill him and the security of being in the palace was gone.
- 5 Then, Saul sent men to his home and he had to flee from there. He couldn't stay with his wife.
- 6 Then, David ran to Samuel, but Saul sent men there, so he could no longer stay with Samuel. He then has no counselor to help.

- 7 David then came to Jonathan who also had to send him away for his own safety. So he lost his best friend.
- 8 But this is where we learn some important truths for our life to become victorious. God may take away those things on which we rely for support and strength so we can rely on God and God alone.

Psalm 25:14-16, The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant. My eyes are continually toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

- 9 Paul also understood this truth which is why he wrote to the church these words to the church at Corinth.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10, And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

B. Storms build faith

- 10 All these storms were there to strengthen David to prepare him to become the king of Israel.
- 11 It must have seemed to David that he had control of nothing. Everything seemed to be out of control.
- 12 For three days David had to wait for an answer from Jonathan and all he could wait.
- 13 We hate waiting, yet it is there that God reminds us that we're not the ones in control anyway.

Isaiah 40:31, Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

- 1 But you really don't know this truth until you've lived it.
- 2 You can tell people that God is faithful when you have seen God's faithfulness even when you had no control at all.

Luke 6:48, “he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not

shake it, because it had been well built.”