

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 2



DAVID MADE KING OF JUDAH

Scripture Texts: Acts 13:21-23; 2 Samuel 1:11-16; 2 Samuel 2:1-11

Today's lesson begins in an unsettled and fierce time in the history of Israel. The king was dead in battle. No king ruled for a time. Executions were made without trial or punishment. Last week we studied how God anointed David king over the people whom He had said would be a peculiar treasure unto Himself above all people. God's hand continues to be manifest in today's lesson. Now we look into the latter forty years of David's life.

MEMORY VERSE: *And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?*
— **2 Samuel 1:14**

David, Seed of Jesus Our Savior

Acts 13:21-23 This study should yield rich spiritual blessings to us. David was a man after God's own heart. He was the greatest king Israel ever had. He was an ancestor of Christ, Jesus often being called **the Son of David**. David's kingdom was a type of Christ's kingdom.

If we can find what in David's character pleased God, we will have examples to help us make our lives more pleasing to Him. There will also be dark spots, useful only as warnings. Let us watch for incidents revealing traits of David's character that we may turn the facts into spiritual lessons to inspire to more godly living.

Mourning for Saul and Jonathan

2 Samuel 1:11-16 The history in **2 Samuel** follows immediately that in **1 Samuel**. The last chapter there recorded the death of Saul and his three sons in Mount Gilboa. David at the time was farther south in battle with the Amalekites. Now he has withdrawn to the Philistine city of Ziklag.

A young Amalekite came to him with a fabricated story of having himself killed Saul on Mount Gilboa. He brought David Saul's crown and bracelet. By doing this he sought to gain David's favor for having killed the enemy who many times had sought to kill David. But the motives of David's heart were not seeking revenge. Greater than love for himself was his love for his God, for his friend, and for his nation, Israel. He rent his clothes (a Hebrew sign of sorrow), **mourned, and wept, and fasted until even.**

David gave command to kill the man who claimed to have killed Saul. Why? Because he had **slain the Lord's anointed**, the one chosen by God to rule Israel.

David's mourning for Jonathan, his dear friend, is understandable. But why should he honor Saul, his enemy and would-be murderer? Why would he grieve for him, punish his confessed slayer, and thank those that buried him? **2 Samuel 1:14** gives the reason. David's loyalty was not to this man alone, but to the One who had chosen the man. This is the way we should respect God's choice today. We have opportunities and relationships where we can show such respect. See **Romans 13:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:17 and Hebrews 13:17.** Everyone, whether saint or sinner, can learn a great lesson from the experience of this Amalekite. God will deal with His anointed, but man had better not! This certainly refers to a God-called pastor who is anointed by God for leadership of His people in spiritual things. To work against a man anointed by God will bring spiritual death as suddenly and surely as physical death was delivered to this man.

David's grief for Saul was genuine. It was consistent with his usual behavior concerning Saul. He never tried to take advantage of him or seek revenge. He did not show any personal joy over Saul's downfall. David showed a high quality of forgiveness. How would we do under similar circumstances?

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David Enquires of the Lord

2 Samuel 2:1-4 David at Ziklag wondered what his next step should be. He did not go to men but to the all-wise One. The Lord told him to go to Hebron in Judah. He obeyed.

The men of Judah came, leaders representing the people of the tribe of Judah. **They anointed David king over the house of Judah.** No doubt they had some knowledge of David's earlier accomplishments, his relations with King Saul, and his anointing as king years before (Lesson 1). Samuel had, at the command of God, anointed him while he was still a shepherd lad.

2 Samuel 2:5-11 Men of Jabesh-Gilead, from the land where Saul was killed, had buried Saul and his sons. They were men from the other part of Israel. David thanked them for their kindness to Saul for burying him. He gave them a broad hint that Judah had anointed him to be their king, and that they also make David their king.

David showed patience and faith in God for seven years and a half, waiting on God's next move. He was sure that the God who had started this work was also able to finish what He had begun. David knew he had been chosen of God and anointed king of all Israel years before, but he did not press his claim. Even when Abner made Ishbosheth king over the rest of Israel, David did not contest it. Even though war did follow, it was of Abner's making, not of Joab's, David's captain. **David enquired of the Lord.** Therein laid his secret.

Our Part

We are sometimes tempted to take things out of God's hands into ours to hasten an end we think right. Abraham did. Jacob did. Peter did. How did their self-efforts succeed? Self-efforts show a weakness in faith. If God has promised or planned a thing, He will bring it to pass. Our part is to trust, pray, and obey. David's method was "more of God and less of me". It surely was successful.

JUST A THOUGHT

It is never the right time to do the wrong thing.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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