

The Spartan Sower

The sower soweth the word... Mark 4:14



April 9, 2006 (Vol. 6)

THE ANGER OF SAUL

DWH

"And it came to pass on the morrow after the new moon, which was the second day, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to-day? And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Beth-lehem: and he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me to be there: and now, if I have found favor in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he is not come unto the king's table.

"Then **Saul's anger** was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of a perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own shame, and unto the shame of thy mother's nakedness? For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

"And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore should he be put to death? what hath he done?

"And Saul cast his spear at him to smite him; whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to put David to death. So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no food the second day of the month; for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.

(1 Sam. 20:27-34)

The anger of Saul was something to behold. It was dreadful and fierce. He was king and could use that power in terrible fashion - and who would stop him? Yet, his

anger was unjustified and destructive. Let us examine it briefly.

WHY was Saul angry? Simply this - Saul had sinned and was told that the kingdom would not be his anymore (1 Sam. 15:23). As time progressed, he came to understand that David was the one to whom God would give the kingdom. Thus, he became angry and jealous. He eyed David with suspicion, distrust, and treated him with hostility repeatedly. In fact, the account in 1 Sam. 15 is the beginning of a very troublesome time for David - who would be harassed and chased by Saul for quite some time.

WHAT did Saul's anger accomplish? Perhaps Saul thought that in his anger he could gain control of the situation, make people do his bidding, destroy David and get the kingdom back for himself & his family... But he did none of these things. Instead, he allowed his wrath to drive away a godly man who was obedient to him as king. His anger caused him to overflow with wrath toward his own son, Jonathan, who had the courage to stand for justice and truth against Saul. Saul's words spewed forth filthy and vile descriptions of his wife, Jonathan's mother. In his attempt to strike at Jonathan, Saul used these mean and cruel words to wound and hurt his son. Saul wanted to control the situation - make Jonathan change his mind. But certainly this did not do it. So, Saul even threw a spear at Jonathan, he tried to kill his very own son! Saul's attitudes and behaviors were ruining and destroying the very things he claimed to want to protect and build up.

Friends, Saul's anger was exceedingly sinful and very harmful. What good did it accomplish? How did it help him keep the kingdom? How did it help him maintain his family in love and happiness? How did it help his relationship with God? It simply didn't. Saul let his sins master him and ruin him, rather than controlling himself and his attitudes and behaviors - he let his love of sin, his pride, his selfishness ruin him. He had so much, but lost it all - by his own wicked behavior. He blamed

others constantly - David & even Jonathan - for his troubles. But the heart of the matter is that he didn't deal with the source of the problem - himself.

How many of us today allow sin to rule us - yet think we have the right to be honored by men as faithful & allowed by God into heaven? "If any man thinketh himself to be religious, while he bridleth not his tongue but deceiveth his heart, this man's religion is vain." (Jas. 1:26) God demands that we live holy lives. We must not just appeal to Him for mercy - and then persist in sin. No no. We must truly yield ourselves to Him, change our ways and in so doing we trust in His mercy to help us as we struggle along.

"Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of Jehovah your God; and Jehovah will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you." (Jer. 26:13).

Friends, what would you rather have? Strife, anger, wrath, frustration, people who fear to be around you, bad language, heartache and regrets - enmity with God? Or calmness and control within yourself - peace and consideration among family and friends - and true holiness and hope with God?

"For, He that would love life, And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips that they speak no guile: And let him turn away from evil, and do good; Let him seek peace, and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And his ears unto their supplication: But the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil." (1 Pet. 3:10-12)

Life and good days... and pleasing the Lord... these are before you. Such pleasant and wonderful goals. You can lay hold of them, if you do things

God's way. Can you think of anything better than what God offers? Can you think of any better way to live?

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Men's & Ladies Classes** - Tues, April 11 @ 7 pm.
- **Home Bible Study** – Sat., April 15, 29.
- **Business Meeting** – Sun. April 30 @ 5pm.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Stacey Durham at Creekview church of Christ in Gallatin, Tn. April 28-30, 2006.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Ron Roberts, Oct.15-20, 2006.

PRAY FOR

Mag Bumbalough, Greg Capps, Sabrina Capps, Thelma Cunningham, Donald Eller, Holly Jernigan (Joyce Gardner's niece has cancer), **John Ross Key** (Mary Cox's son), **Marci Miller** (Alisa Fletcher's mother), **Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Rose Taylor, Doris Williams, Wayne Williams** (Doris' son - stint in back this week), **Ruth Williams** (Betty England's niece), **Jillian Francis** (Terry Francis' daughter, preacher at Hillview), **Wanda Frazier; Robert England** (Recovering), **Joyce Gardner; Ocia Bell / Jones & Charlie Jones** (Mother & brother to Doris Williams); **Sheila Eller** (Expecting); **Mia Godsey** (ear surgery April 17th).

Those in Iraq: Jason Zelenak (Alisa Fletcher's brother), **Cary Matheny.**

We Invite You To All Our Services!

Sunday Bible Study	9 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7 pm

North Sparta church of Christ

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