

# The Book of 1Samuel—19:1-24

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## *“The Importance of a Strong Support System”*

(1/10/16)

In 1Samuel 19 we see how King Saul was determined to kill David—why?

Because Saul was jealous of David—

### **1 Samuel 18:28-30 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> Thus Saul saw and knew that the LORD *was* with David, and *that* Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him; <sup>29</sup> and Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul became David's enemy continually. <sup>30</sup> Then the princes of the Philistines went out *to war*. And so it was, whenever they went out, *that* David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed.

In these verses we see three things that were the source of Saul's hatred of David—all three were rooted in Saul's jealousy of David—

1. Saul was jealous of David's relationship with God
2. Saul was jealous of David's relationship with his daughter
3. Saul was jealous of David's relationship with the people

This then becomes the background for Saul's manic, rabid desire to get rid of David—jealousy rooted in pride.

It's important to understand that David had done nothing wrong to Saul.

David had respected Saul and had served him with his whole heart to the point of putting his life on the line for him in battle—and so in that regard David was being persecuted for righteousness sake.

It's one thing to be persecuted for doing wrong—it's another thing to be persecuted when you've done what's right.

**Matthew 5:10-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**1 Peter 3:13-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. "*And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.*" <sup>15</sup> But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. <sup>17</sup> For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

David had done nothing worthy of Saul's hatred—Saul hated him without a reason.

Unfortunately this is something that is a part of life—especially if you're a follower of Jesus Christ—

**John 15:18-20 (NLT)**

<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. <sup>20</sup> Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you...

Paul the apostle admonished us as Christians in Romans 12—“*If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*”

By saying this he was implying that sometimes you can go out of your way to be nice to people, to love them, to serve them and try to live at peace with them—but they refuse to be at peace with you.

And the reason is often they are jealous of you—jealous of your walk with God; jealous of your success in business or in ministry; jealous of your popularity with others and so they set themselves against you as an enemy.

And as such they try to destroy your reputation, your popularity, your ministry, maybe even try to get you fired from your job—in short try to bring you down in some way.

Unfortunately, as I said earlier, this is often the case when God is blessing you or using you—that others will set themselves against you.

How do we deal with this kind of thing that will help us cope (besides praying for them and seeking not to retaliate against them)?

Well I see something from this chapter that David did that helped him cope with Saul’s hatred of him.

This is something that is practical and essential for dealing with the outside pressures and persecutions we face in life—something that I’ll simply refer to as having a *good support system* around you.

The dictionary defines a ‘support system’ as— “*a network of people who provide an individual with practical or emotional support.*”

David's support system consisted of—

- A good friend;
- A devoted wife; and
- A strong mentor

## I. A Good Friend—v.1-7

### 1 Samuel 19:1-7 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David. <sup>2</sup> So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret *place* and hide. <sup>3</sup> And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you *are*, and I will speak with my father about you. Then what I observe, I will tell you." <sup>4</sup> Thus Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works *have been* very good toward you. <sup>5</sup> For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel. You saw *it* and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?" <sup>6</sup> So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed." <sup>7</sup> Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things. So Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as in times past.

Jonathan was a good friend to David—and what made him a good friend was that he put David's welfare above his own.

A good friend will always put you first in the sense that they will be looking out for your best interests not their own.

They will be there to support you when you need supporting—but also to challenge you when you're wrong even to the point of reproving you if need be—"*faithful are the wounds of a friend*" (Prov.27:6)

Jonathan put his life on the line when he went to his father to stick up for David knowing that his father Saul was mentally unstable and could have killed him for siding with David.

Not to mention the fact that if Jonathan had been a selfish man he could have conspired with his father to eliminate David so that he (Jonathan) would have become the next king of Israel.

But Jonathan was concerned more for the welfare of his friend than himself—all Jonathan wanted was God's best for *David's* life—that's a true friend.

Jonathan's attitude mirrored another John in the Bible—John the Baptist who said with regard to the Son of David, Jesus Christ—“*He must increase but I must decrease.*”

Surrounding yourself with good Christian friends who will encourage you, support you and who will keep you accountable is absolutely essential for living the Christian life—just make sure you pick your friends wisely.

## II. A Devoted Wife—v.8-17

### **1 Samuel 19:8-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> And there was war again; and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a mighty blow, and they fled from him. <sup>9</sup> Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing *music* with *his* hand. <sup>10</sup> Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night. <sup>11</sup> Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." <sup>12</sup> So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped. <sup>13</sup> And Michal took an image and laid *it* in the bed, put a cover of goats' *hair* for his head, and covered *it* with clothes. <sup>14</sup> So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He *is* sick." <sup>15</sup> Then Saul sent the messengers *back* to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him."

**<sup>16</sup> And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats' *hair* for his head. <sup>17</sup> Then Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?' "**

We saw at the end of chapter 18 how that Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife because David had killed 200 Philistines and gave their foreskins to Saul as a dowry for her hand in marriage.

We read at the end of chapter 18 that Michal was madly in love with David and here protects him from her father's soldiers that have been ordered by Saul to kill David—putting her life on the line as her brother Jonathan had done for David (Saul resented and was jealous of their devotion to David).

So initially Michal was a devoted wife to David—unfortunately their relationship eventually soured because Michal, who was probably an unbeliever, couldn't handle David's love and devotion to God—as we will see when we get to 2Samuel chapter 6.

I can't tell you how important a strong marriage is when it comes to living for God and serving Him.

When I talk about people who have stood by me during 35 years of ministry—those who have supported and encouraged me for all of that time—my wife is at the top of the list.

I personally don't think I would have made it this far in my ministry if I didn't have such a selfless, loving, encouraging and supportive wife by my side.

Satan knows how important a strong marriage is when it comes to serving the Lord—and that's why he attacks ministry marriages so viciously and relentlessly.

We must understand that most of our struggles in marriage are really not with each other—they are spiritual in nature (Eph. 6:12).

Of course we become willing pawns and participants in the devil's attempt to destroy our marriages through our own selfishness and pride.

We can't blame the devil for our failed marriages—but we must not be 'ignorant of his devices' either.

**Mark 3:25 (NKJV)**

And if a house (or marriage) is divided against itself, that house (or marriage) cannot stand.

Satan's strategy has always been—"Divide and Conquer" because he knows there is strength in unity—

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup>Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.

<sup>10</sup>For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up...<sup>12</sup>Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

When we talk about a strong support system that will help you deal with the pressures, problems and persecutions of the Christian life—nothing will be a greater strength than a man having a godly Spirit-filled wife by his side and a wife having a godly Spirit-filled husband by her side.

**I. A Good Friend—v.1-7**

**II. A Devoted Wife—v.8-13**

### III. A Strong Mentor—v.18

#### **1 Samuel 19:18 (NKJV)**

**<sup>18</sup> So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.**

I remember reading a book years ago where the author, who was also a pastor, stressed the importance of having at least one older Christian in our lives who would be a source of wisdom, someone who can speak into our lives to challenge us.

The author said that there are basically three kinds of people Christians have contact with:

- *The draining*
- *The nice*
- *The dynamic*

He said in ministry we tend to deal with the draining most of the time—those that can drain us of our time, energy and even our joy with their endless stream of problems.

He said the solution is to get recharged by limiting our time with these folks and making sure we also spend a fair amount of time with those older Christians that can build us up and challenge us toward change, progress and growth in our walk with the Lord—dynamic believers (mentors).

The problem is we minister to the draining but then often only spend time with Christians that are at our own level of maturity—our friends and peers.

These are the people we enjoy being with, they're nice to be around.



And when we're with them we have a good time getting something to eat, taking in a show or getting coffee and because our time with them has been enjoyable and we've talked about spiritual things a bit—we think they have been a benefit to us spiritually when in fact the 'nice' have a neutral effect on us spiritually.

In other words they don't drain us but they don't challenge and build into us either and so they've had a neutral effect on our walk.

I think that Saul had drained David just from his constant pursuing and persecution of him.

David seeks out Samuel, no doubt to tell him about all that Saul was doing to him—but also to spend some time with an older man of God.

Samuel at this time was an old man who had walked with God since he was a little boy.

I believe that David needed to spend some time around Samuel to get 'recharged' spiritually speaking and get wisdom and input from Samuel on how David should move forward in his relationship with Saul and in his ministry.

I believe that having an older Christian in your life who can challenge you and speak into your life—someone who is older and wiser, someone who has walked with the Lord for many years is invaluable as a part of your spiritual support system.

If you don't have anyone like that in your life—pray and ask God to send someone who will be a spiritual mentor and a dynamic agent for change in your life.

While you're waiting for God to send a person like that—make use of biographies and devotionals and other books written by older, godly believers that you will build into you and challenge you to go deeper in your walk with God and to step out into new ventures of faith for His glory.

Now as important as a strong support system is humanly speaking—the One who ultimately watches over us to encourage, support and protect us against our enemies is God Himself.

Let me show you what I mean—

**1 Samuel 19:18-21 (NKJV)**

**<sup>18</sup> So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth. <sup>19</sup> Now it was told Saul, saying, "Take note, David *is* at Naioth in Ramah!" <sup>20</sup> Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing *as* leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. <sup>21</sup> And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.**

When Saul hears that David is in Naioth in Ramah he sends some of his men to take David by force and bring him so Saul could execute him.

But when Saul's men got there, there was a worship service going on—a group of men (Samuel's young prophets) were prophesying.

The Hebrew word doesn't have to mean 'predicting the future'—it could simply mean they were singing to God, praying to God or simply speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

I personally think they were all praising God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

When Saul's men got to the meeting the Spirit of God came upon them and instead of arresting David they also began to praise God under the inspiration of the Spirit.

When it got back to Saul what had happened that his soldiers had been turned into worshippers—Saul sends a second group...and then a third. (Comment)

One author said,

*“This was an unusual work of the Holy Spirit—to come upon men who did not seek after God, who did not long to be filled with the Spirit. God did this to protect David, and this was His way of “disarming” those who came to capture David.*

*This was also the Holy Spirit’s warning to these men and to Saul. It is as if the Spirit said, “I don’t want David captured. I am sending these men home empty handed. Instead of seeking to kill David, you should seek to be filled with the **Spirit of God.**”*

**1 Samuel 19:22-24 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> Then he also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is at Sechu. So he asked, and said, "Where *are* Samuel and David?" And *someone* said, "Indeed *they are* at Naioth in Ramah." <sup>23</sup> So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. <sup>24</sup> And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "*Is* Saul also among the prophets?"

Saul was a proud man who wouldn’t humble himself before God—so God forces him to humble himself by having him strip ‘naked’ and lay on the ground for the rest of the day and through the night praising Him.

It is unlikely—though possible—that Saul stripped himself completely naked.

The Hebrew word for “naked” can indicate just stripping down to the undergarments.

Saul probably took off all the royal robes that said “prestige” and “royalty”—everything that he had ‘wrapped’ himself in that outwardly fed his pride and laid himself out before the LORD in his underwear.

It was a way for the LORD to say, “*You really aren’t a king any more, Saul. I’ve stripped you of your royal glory.*”

Someday the Lord will strip every unbeliever of their glory and pride and make them bow the knee and confess the greatness of God (praise!).

Until then when it comes to our enemies I'll leave you with the words of David who wrote Ps. 59 after this incident—

**Psalm 59:1-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; Defend me from those who rise up against me.

<sup>2</sup> Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, And save me from bloodthirsty men. <sup>3</sup> For look, they lie in wait for my life; The mighty gather against me, Not *for* my transgression nor *for* my sin, O LORD. <sup>4</sup> They run and prepare themselves through no fault *of mine*... <sup>16</sup> But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; For You have been my defense And refuge in the day of my trouble. <sup>17</sup> To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; For God *is* my defense, My God of mercy.

There is power in praise.

When others come against you—respond by spending time in God's presence praising Him for being your defender—the One who will watch over and protect you and vindicate you.

Praise is a manifestation of faith—and faith is the channel that allows the power of God to flow into our lives.