

God's Providential Care over His People

1 Samuel 19:1-24

Read 1 Samuel 19:1-24 and pray that God would grant you spiritual understanding.

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you thought there was no way out, and then God delivered you in that situation? Have you told someone else this story and given God the glory for his protection?
2. What is the relationship between God's promise to protect his people (say in Psalm 34:19) and the reality of bad things that happen to God's people (as in Psalm 13:1-6)? To ask the same question differently, if God's promise to protect us does not mean that no harm will come to us, what does it mean (it might be good to look up Isaiah 57:1, Matthew 10:28-31 and Romans 8:28)?
3. In Ephesians 6:1 (and Colossians 3:20) we read that children should submit to parents. In this passage we read that Jonathan attempted to persuade his father not to kill David. What is the relationship between submission and reasonableness in parent to child relationships?
4. What are the reasons Jonathan gives to Saul not to kill David in vv.4-5? Are they good reasons? What does the Bible say about our use of words (especially when we disagree with them)? Take a look at Colossians 4:6, 2 Timothy 2:16, Proverbs 15:1, Philippians 4:5, Ephesians 4:15.
5. v.9 reveals what is really going on in the inner world of Saul as he attempted to kill David. What was it? Do you think there are people today who have the same problem? How should we respond? Take a look at Ephesians 6:10-18.
6. Think about the character of Saul all the way from where his story began in 1 Samuel 9 to now. Would you say his story is tragic or heroic? What was the determining factor in his decline? Could that happen to you? What needs to happen to prevent it?
7. What are the parallels between 1 Samuel 19:11-17 and Joshua 2:1-24? Why does the author want us to notice these similarities? Hint: think about the reason God was preserving the spies and why God was preserving David.
8. v.18 What is the significance of the relationship between Samuel and David and Samuel and Saul. For the latter, you might want to refresh your memory with 1 Samuel 15:16-23.
9. What was God doing when the men of Saul came after David in vv.18-21? How should we think about what happened to these men - indeed, what happened to Saul also in vv.23-24? Here are some important passages to help you think through these events: Matthew 7:21-23 and 1 Cor. 14:24-25.
10. What is the lesson David took from the whole episode according to his meditative prayer in Psalm 59:16-17? How might you apply this lesson to your life when you are in distress?