



## Bits of Hope from 09/10/2006

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### 1 Samuel 19: 1-10

People really need our help but may attack you if you help them. Help them anyway!

Several years ago I had a cat named Rambo. Rambo was always getting in trouble and in need of help. One day while Rambo was playing on the deck at my home, she got her head stuck between the balusters. She needed my help so I reached down and took her head in an effort to free her but instead of being grateful, she attacked me and scratched me with her claws. Rambo needed my help, but she didn't seem to appreciate my help. When I thought about it, she reminded me of some people I know.

In our text today, Saul needed help. The Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul. God had allowed an evil spirit to trouble Saul. He asked his servants if they knew of anyone who could play the harp so that when this evil spirit came upon him, he would be soothed. One of his servants recommended David as one who could play a harp. The scriptures say, David played his harp and helped Saul.

On another occasion, the Philistine army had drawn battle lines against the Israelite army. In **1 Sam 17**, Goliath had the Israelites shaking in their boots. David came out to bring food to his brothers and was greatly offended by the things Goliath was saying. You know the story; David won a stunning victory for Israel that day. Saul was grateful and elevated David to a high rank in the army. However, soon Saul's attitude changed. Saul was in need of help. David, a young man, seemingly came out of nowhere to help him. What did David get for all of his trouble? Saul threw a spear at him, **1 Sam 18: 10-11**.

You have reached out your hand to help someone and they bit it. You've given assistance to a colleague at work and they have accused you of trying to steal their job. Not only did Saul try to kill David, he told his son Jonathan and his servants to kill him. Jonathan warned David that his father was out to kill him, and then he asked his father why he would kill an innocent man when all that David had done was beneficial to Saul and his people. Saul was jealous. He was not only jealous, he was envious. **Jealousy is wishing you had what someone else has; envy is being angry because they have it.** Some folks just cannot share the limelight.

Pride makes it uncomfortable for persons when others are being celebrated **Prov 27:21**. The same praise that humbled David brought out the dross that was in Saul's heart. Praise will either make you grateful for the opportunity to serve, or make us feel more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. Saul was prideful. Pride does strange things to people. Some folks really need our help, but fight you when you try to help them. Who wants to admit they need help in a world where self-sufficiency is taught from infancy? We're expected to have it all together at all times. Even when you don't feel like it, you're expected to look like it. Some of us are even uncomfortable coming to the altar. If only we would understand that God is a very present help in times of trouble. If we would only understand that if we would come like an humble child to God we could save ourselves a lot of trouble trying to pull ourselves out of what we get ourselves into.

Saul's real problem was insecurity. When he was first appointed king of Israel, they looked for him but they could not find him **1 Sam 10:22**. When people are insecure, they overcompensate for it. They are afraid and try to prove that they are what they feel like they are not. If we can only learn to allow a brother like David to help us out. **Ecc 4:9-12**, we must learn that no one is an island. We need one another desperately. Kent M. Keith says, "Some need help and deny it. Others know they need help and resent it. Still others need help and don't know what they need."

Saul had lost God's favor; David now had it. Saul tried to overcome his jealousy, but he couldn't help himself. Sometimes when people attack us, it may not be about us. They may be angry at their situation. They may be dealing with health issues, aging, helplessness, and hopelessness. A person can be appreciative and angry at the same time. It is because they are confused and hurt and feeling helpless. The more helpless they become, the angrier they become. David helps us understand that even though people may attack us, we are called to help them anyway.

**David's commitment to help Saul grew out of his love and service to God.**

What would you do if no one ever called your name? Would you serve anyway? What would you do if you didn't have a title in front of your name? Would you serve in the same way? **Mark 10:45**. The king of glory came down and served. He did not have to do it, but he died for us anyway. Serving and helping people often means that we have to lose ourselves.

**David understood that he was a servant. It does not matter who it is; we are called to serve. We are called to help people. We are called to do good to them even when they don't do good in return.**

For the rest of Saul's life, he hunted David down, but David served Saul anyway. David had opportunities when he could have done harm to Saul, but he didn't. Some of you are in a position where you can get back at those people who have been mean to you. The world says, when someone attacks you, you need to attack him or her back. The Bible says forgive them; bless those who persecute you. When you help people you are helping God when you continue to help them even after they attack you **Heb 6:10**.

Sometimes the people who treat us the worst are the people who need us the most. If you help people, they may attack you. Help them anyway. They may not reciprocate, but God always sends someone. It's about giving all that we have like Christ did and loving people without limit.

Peace.

Volunteers are always welcome 770-696-5100