



與主

有約

260

舊約歷史

撒母耳記上

16-31章

(靈修篇)

「與主有約260」

260 讀經表 (撒母耳記上2011年2月至3月)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1/16	1/17 士20	1/18 士21	1/19 得1	1/20 得2	1/21 得3	1/22
1/23	1/24 得4	1/25 撒上1	1/26 撒上2	1/27 撒上3	1/28 撒上4	1/29
1/30	1/31 撒上5	2/1 撒上6	2/2 撒上7	2/3 撒上8	2/4 撒上9	2/5
2/6	2/7 撒上10	2/8 撒上11	2/9 撒上12	2/10 撒上13	2/11 撒上14	2/12
2/13	2/14 撒上15	2/15 撒上16	2/16 撒上17	2/17 撒上18	2/18 撒上19	2/19
2/20	2/21 撒上20	2/22 撒上21	2/23 撒上22	2/24 撒上23	2/25 撒上24	2/26
2/27	2/28 撒上25	3/1 撒上26	3/2 撒上27	3/3 撒上28	3/4 撒上29	3/5
3/6	3/7 撒上30	3/8 撒上31	3/9 撒下1	3/10 撒下2	3/11 撒下3	3/12
3/13	3/14 撒下4	3/15 撒下5	3/16 撒下6	3/17 撒下7	3/18 撒下8	3/19
3/20	3/21 撒下9	3/22 撒下10	3/23 撒下11	3/24 撒下12	3/25 撒下13	3/26
3/27	3/28 撒下14	3/29 撒下15	3/30 撒下16	3/31 撒下17	4/1 撒下18	4/2

2009年一年的時間，教會在主日講臺、成人主日學和信徒個人靈修、小組分享中，一同參與「與主有約260」的讀經計劃，完滿地走過一遍新約。2010年3月到2011年6月，我們將用一年多的時間，讀完創世記到列王記下，舊約的歷史部分。

神的話語若不能落實在我們個人與教會整體的生活中，我們個人若不能切實地接受從聖經中所得到的警戒、提醒、安慰、指引，教會及小組若不能整體地來分辨、順服神的旨意，我們所做的一切，恐怕都是「草、木、禾稈」，而非「金、銀、銅、鐵」的工程（林前3：11-15）。

因此，我們誠懇邀請「萬民的天家同路人」，一起參加「與主有約260」，學會天天親近主。這樣，聆聽神、親近主，就成為信徒每天生活的一部分，「直等到基督的特性在你們的生命中成形」（加4：19《現中本》）。

萬民福音堂傳道同工敬上

2011年2月

每日靈修 (Quiet Time QT 5 • 5 • 5) :

每週最少五天靈修。每天安排15分鐘讀經禱告(QT)：定時，定點，定量
QT 5 • 5 • 5 :

- 安靜5分鐘後，將經文慢慢的讀兩三遍。
- 用5分鐘默想經文中觸動你心的字句或意念，求聖靈顯明心中的感動與自己目前處境的關係，並求聖靈指引你當有的回應。
- 最後5分鐘，將經文和心中的感動化作禱告。
- 禱告後，安靜片時，然後把今天的感動簡單的記錄下來。

一天中的任何時候，操練「反復思想」感動你的經文。

週末與主有約

每逢星期六與星期日，回顧反思本週內所讀過的經文。用這時間沉潛在與神相遇的經歷中。

每天藉五個簡短的禱告，操練隨時與神同在：

1. 神啊，我屬祢！
2. 主耶穌，求你可憐我
3. 主啊，救我！
4. 天父，我感謝祢！
5. 主啊，我愛祢！

撒母耳記上 第十六章

4 撒母耳就照耶和華的話去行。到了伯利恆，那城裡的長老都戰戰兢兢地出來迎接他，問他說：你是為平安來的嗎？5 他說：為平安來的，我是給耶和華獻祭。你們當自潔，來與我同吃祭肉。撒母耳就使耶西和他眾子自潔，請他們來吃祭肉。6 他們來的時候，撒母耳看見以利押，就心裡說，耶和華的受膏者必定在他面前。7 耶和華卻對撒母耳說：不要看他的外貌和他身材高大，我不揀選他。因為，耶和華不像人看人：人是看外貌；耶和華是看內心。

思想：

1. 撒母耳在尋找神為以色列所揀選的第二個王時，可能還帶著當初膏立掃羅時，見他高大健壯、相貌俊美，極受百姓的景仰（參9：2），這樣的想法，去找下一任的以色列王。但是神告訴他，不要單單以貌取人，外貌並不顯明人的實質和內涵，神卻是能看透人的內心，明白我們的思念動機。
2. 我是否也像許多的人，重視外表的儀容，追求以外貌取勝，卻不留意自己的內心，或重視別人的內涵？究竟神所看到我的內心是怎樣的呢？
3. 在我經常來往的人群中，他們是否都是在言談、舉止、衣著、事業、生活形態等方面與我類似？我是否會刻意與一些與我不同的人，尤其是不被我生活圈中的人接受的人來往？為什麼

禱告：

主啊，感謝你接納我，你沒有按照我平凡無奇的外貌，或是我污穢雜亂的內心，來決定是否拯救我。是你揀選的恩典，使我成為你的兒女。願祢開我心中的眼睛，不再以貌取人，輕視他人，乃學像主一樣，看重他們內在的靈魂，真心去愛我身邊每一個人。

1 Samuel Chapter 16

4 Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" 5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

THINK

1. When Samuel was seeking to anoint the second king for Israel, he probably had the idea of finding someone who was much admired by the people with his stunning physical appearance, such as he had done with Saul. However, God clearly told him not to choose based only on the outward appearances. Appearances don't reveal the substance of a person. God can see through a man's heart, and understand our thoughts and motivations.
2. Am I like many who put much emphasis on the outward appearance, but not enough attention to what is inside of a person? What does God see on my inside?
3. It is often much easier to associate with people who are similar to me in speech, action, clothing, profession, and lifestyle. We are attracted to and get along with the people that they project themselves to be. If we simply focus on appearances, we might miss out on relationship with people who God has placed around us and with whom we can and ought to enter into deep spiritual friendship with. Will I intentionally make friends with people outside of my circle, those that are different from me? Why?

PRAYER

Lord, I thank you for accepting me completely. You saved me despite of my most common appearances, and my often wicked and confused thoughts inside. It is your electing grace that allows me to become your child. May you open my inner eyes, to see others, not just their outside, but to look into their inside to truly love them as Jesus does.

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv4-7, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Activity: Take turns standing each member of the family in front of the rest of the family. Take turns describing each family member's appearance. Read v7. Now, stand each family member in front of the rest of the family again. Try to describe each member as God might see him or her.



第十七章

40 他手中拿杖，又在溪中挑選了五塊光滑石子，放在袋裡，就是牧人帶的囊裡；手中拿著甩石的機弦，就去迎那非利士人。41 非利士人也漸漸地迎著大衛來，拿盾牌的走在前頭。42 非利士人觀看，見了大衛，就藐視他；因為他年輕，面色光紅，容貌俊美。43 非利士人對大衛說：你拿杖到我這裡來，我豈是狗呢？非利士人就指著自己的神咒詛大衛。44 非利士人又對大衛說：來吧！我將你的肉給空中的飛鳥、田野的走獸吃。45 大衛對非利士人說：你來攻擊我，是靠著刀槍和銅戟；我來攻擊你，是靠著萬軍之耶和華的名，就是你所怒罵帶領以色列軍隊的神。46 今日耶和華必將你交在我手裡。我必殺你，斬你的頭，又將非利士軍兵的屍首給空中的飛鳥、地上的野獸吃，使普天下的人都知道以色列中有神；47 又使這眾人知道耶和華使人得勝，不是用刀用槍，因為爭戰的勝敗全在乎耶和華。他必將你們交在我們手裡。48 非利士人起身，迎著大衛前來。大衛急忙迎著非利士人，往戰場跑去。49 大衛用手從囊中掏出一塊石子來，用機弦甩去，打中非利士人的額，石子進入額內，他就仆倒，面伏於地。50 這樣，大衛用機弦甩石，勝了那非利士人，打死他；大衛手中卻沒有刀。

思想：

1. 大衛面對著強大的敵人，他對神的能力充滿信心，不是靠自己的能力作戰。敵人的威嚇及壓倒性的氣焰，並沒有使大衛對神的信心動搖。

2. 我心中的巨人是甚麼？我生命中有甚麼掙扎？我如何才能擊敗他們？

禱告：

主啊，開我的眼，如以利沙一樣能看見，與我同在的比與他們同在的更多；如保羅看見，神若幫助我，誰能敵擋我；如大衛看見，任何巨大的仇敵都比不上你。

助我靠信心而非眼見而生活，有勇氣而非恐懼地度日。讓我心中充滿對神的盼望，而非因歌利亞而生的沮喪。

提醒我聖經中你拯救的工作，也提醒我你在我身上的救贖。

從這些提醒中，賜我勇氣，來迎對我目前所面對的巨人……

CHAPTER 17

40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. 41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!" 45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands." 48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

THINK:

1. David was full of confidence in God when he faced this gigantic enemy. He didn't fight with his own might but God's. The enemy's threat and challenge didn't shake David's trust in God.
2. What is the giant in my life? What are the struggles in my life? How could I defeat them?

PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help me to see, with Elisha, that greater are those who are with me than those who are with my enemy. Help me to see with Paul, that if you are for me, who can be against me? And help me to see, with David, that no opposition is gigantic when compared to you. Give me eyes to see, O Lord.

Help me to live by faith rather than by sight, courageously rather than fearfully. Give me a God-dominated imagination, not a Goliath-dominated one.

Remind me of your saving acts in biblical history. Remind me of your saving acts in my own history.

And from those reminders, grant me the courage I need to fight whatever giants have come into my land.... (Conversation)

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv28-30, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Discussion: David and his oldest brother were angry with each other. What could you have done to prevent these words of frustration or anger if you were the oldest brother? David? Does this sound like any conversations in our family? What can we do in our family to keep from getting angry with each other? What should we say or do when we are angry?



第十八章

1 大衛對掃羅說完了話，約拿單的心與大衛的心深相契合。約拿單愛大衛，如同愛自己的性命。2 那日掃羅留住大衛，不容他再回父家。3 約拿單愛大衛如同愛自己的性命，就與他結盟。4 約拿單從身上脫下外袍，給了大衛，又將戰衣、刀、弓、腰帶都給了他。5 掃羅無論差遣大衛往何處去，他都做事精明。掃羅就立他作戰士長，眾百姓和掃羅的臣僕無不喜悅。6 大衛打死了那非利士人，同眾人回來的時候，婦女們從以色列各城裡出來，歡歡喜喜，打鼓擊磬，歌唱跳舞，迎接掃羅王。7 眾婦女舞蹈唱和，說：掃羅殺死千千，大衛殺死萬萬。8 掃羅甚發怒，不喜悅這話，就說：將萬萬歸大衛，千千歸我，只剩下王位沒有給他了。9 從這日起，掃羅就怒視大衛。

思想：

1. 約拿單和大衛一見如故，二人深相契合。他們彼此立約，相互委身，忠誠地保護對方。真誠的友誼關係不是交易式的，也不是「大難臨頭各自飛」的；即或父親掃羅對大衛心存敵意，也無法叫約拿單放棄對他的友情。真心的付出，不計較個人得失，即使沒有任何回報，仍不減其獨特的價值。這種忠貞的情誼正好叫人體會上帝守約的意義！——而弟兄姊妹能成為朋友，彼此相愛，就是純粹因著「神就是愛」！
2. 相反的，掃羅是一個自我中心的人，當大衛在某方面有更好的表現時，他不能欣賞他，反而心生嫉妒。掃羅的嫉妒產生恨惡，甚至要置大衛於死地！他終其一生都活在懷疑別人、對付別人、防範別人，甚至打壓別人的光景中。
3. 在工作上當我遇到比自己能力更強的人，我會像掃羅妒忌，還是欣賞他，並視他為學習的對象？我曾否衷心稱許與讚賞別人的成就？我是否願意成為別人生命中的約拿單？什麼人？

禱告：

慢慢地讀腓2：3-4，像是神在對我說的話，有什麼詞句特別觸動我的，停頓一下，聆聽神對我說什麼。告訴神我心中的想法，有什麼難處、不明、不甘、喜樂，都告訴神。

不要自私自利，不要貪圖虛名，要彼此謙讓，看別人比自己高明。不要只顧自己，也要關心別人的利益。（現中譯本）

CHAPTER 18

1 After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. 2 From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. 3 And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. 4 Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt. 5 Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well. 6 When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. 7 As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." 8 Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" 9 And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

THINK:

1. The friendship between David and Jonathan was remarkable. The kind of spiritual kinship between David and Jonathan was energized by affection and sealed by covenant. True friendship is not transactional, it is not calculating and not demanding. It is this loyal friendship that helps us to understand more of God's covenantal love for us. And it is because "God is love" that we can love one another.
2. Contrarily, Saul is a self-centered person. When David had better accomplishments, he not only could not appreciate him, but became jealous. His jealousy turned into hatred that in the end he wanted to kill David. In all, Saul lived his life in suspecting, guarding, fighting and oppressing others.
3. At work, when I meet someone more capable than I, would I become jealous like Saul? Or would I appreciate him and learn from him? Have I ever truthfully praised and complemented someone for his or her achievement? Am I willing to be someone's Jonathan? Who would that be?

PRAY:

Read the following passage from Phil 2:3-4 as God speaking to me. Respond to God freely throughout the reading as my prayer response to Him.

Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. (the Message)

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv1-9, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY PRAYER: Read the above Prayer and discuss it. Then have one parent read it slowly as if God is directly speaking to all. End with a prayer of commitment to God.



第十九章

19 有人告訴掃羅，說大衛在拉瑪的拿約。 20 掃羅打發人去捉拿大衛。去的人見有一班先知都受感說話，撒母耳站在其中監管他們；打發去的人也受 神的靈感動說話。 21 有人將這事告訴掃羅，他又打發人去，他們也受感說話。掃羅第三次打發人去，他們也受感說話。 22 然後掃羅自己往拉瑪去，到了西沽的大井，問人說：「撒母耳和大衛在哪裡呢？」有人說：「在拉瑪的拿約。」 23 他就往拉瑪的拿約去。 神的靈也感動他，一面走一面說話，直到拉瑪的拿約。 24 他就脫了衣服，在撒母耳面前受感說話，一晝一夜露體躺臥。因此有句俗語說：「掃羅也列在先知中嗎？」

思想：

1. “受感說話”在此處與10：5相同，似乎是表示因受聖靈感動而發出對神熱切的讚美。這是掃羅第二次的經驗，他第一次是緊接著受膏為王之後發生的。
2. 掃羅被神的靈的大能所壓倒，使他殺害大衛的計劃處處受到挫折。除了自己的無能之外，約拿單一心向大衛效忠（4-7節），米甲為保護大衛而欺騙父親（11-17節），再加上大衛本身的聰明才能。此處事件，是掃羅設法謀害大衛陰謀無法得逞的高潮。
3. 我是否有什麼不合神心意的計劃，雖然堅持進行，卻不斷地被神阻攔？我需要怎樣才肯服在神更堅強、更美善、更有智慧的旨意之下？讚美和敬拜如何能幫助我？

禱告：

親愛的主，求你教導我，指示我當行的路。求你定睛在我身上，知道我的心思意念，並我所作的一切事。勸戒我、指示我，將我頑梗的心，屈服在你聖善的美意底下。（參：詩32：8）

CHAPTER 19

19 Word came to Saul: "David is in Naioth at Ramah"; 20 so he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, the Spirit of God came on Saul's men, and they also prophesied. 21 Saul was told about it, and he sent more men, and they prophesied too. Saul sent men a third time, and they also prophesied. 22 Finally, he himself left for Ramah and went to the great cistern at Seku. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" "Over in Naioth at Ramah," they said. 23 So Saul went to Naioth at Ramah. But the Spirit of God came even on him, and he walked along prophesying until he came to Naioth. 24 He stripped off his garments, and he too prophesied in Samuel's presence. He lay naked all that day and all that night. This is why people say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

THINK

1. The "prophesying" here was probably singing and praising the Lord. This is the second time Saul was overwhelmed by the Spirit from God and prophesied with the prophets. The first time it was right after he was anointed.
2. Saul was utterly overwhelmed by the power of the Spirit of God that he was prevented from carrying out his intention to kill David. Other than his inability, there were Jonathan's loyalty, Micah's deception and David's own cleverness. The incident in this passage becomes the climax of God's power in frustrating and thwarting Saul's murderous scheme.
3. Do I have any less-than-holy plans which God continues to frustrate despite my persistence? What would it take for me to submit to God's stronger and wiser will? How can I use praise and worship to help me?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, please instruct me and teach me in the way I should go. With your loving eye on me, and know my heart and my thoughts and everything I do. Counsel me and direct me so that my stubbornness may be brought under your good and perfect will. (Psalm 32:8)

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv19-24, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Worship: Saul was jealous of David and wanted to kill him. But every time he tried, God would always prevent Saul to succeed. God is more powerful than Saul's evil plan. Sing together: We've got a Great, Big, Wonderful God.



第二十章

25 王照常坐在靠牆的位上，約拿單侍立，押尼珥坐在掃羅旁邊，大衛的座位空設。26 然而這日掃羅沒有說什麼，他想大衛遇事，偶染不潔，他必定是不潔。27 初二日大衛的座位還空設。掃羅問他兒子約拿單說：耶西的兒子為何昨日、今日沒有來吃飯呢？28 約拿單回答掃羅說：大衛切求我容他往伯利恆去。29 他說：求你容我去，因為我家在城裡有獻祭的事；我長兄吩咐我去。如今我若在你眼前蒙恩，求你容我去見我的弟兄；所以大衛沒有赴王的席。30 掃羅向約拿單發怒，對他說：你這頑梗背逆之婦人所生的，我豈不知道你喜悅耶西的兒子，自取羞辱，以致你母親露體蒙羞嗎？31 耶西的兒子若在世間活著，你和你的國位必站立不住。現在你要打發人去，將他捉拿交給我；他是該死的。32 約拿單對父親掃羅說：他為什麼該死呢？他做了什麼呢？33 掃羅向約拿單掄槍要刺他，約拿單就知道他父親決意要殺大衛。34 於是約拿單氣忿忿地從席上起來，在這初二日沒有吃飯。他因見父親羞辱大衛，就為大衛愁煩。

思想：

1. 雖然大衛和約拿單二人是王位的爭奪者，他二人卻因深愛對方，而將個人意願擱置一旁。約拿單冒著父親的怒氣，甚至生命，來履行他與大衛所立的盟約，保護大衛。要求大衛將來要善待他的兒子。事隔多年，大衛作王以後，盡力尋找約拿單的兒子米非波設，並將他接到王宮裡生活（參撒下9），履行了諾言。
2. 在我個人的各種關係中，有那些是有類似“盟約”的關係？（婚姻，家庭，文化……）我是否忠誠地履行我在盟約中的諾言？

禱告：

繼續第十八章的禱告默想，慢慢地讀腓2：5-8，像是神在對我說的話，有什麼詞句特別觸動我的，停頓一下，聆聽神對我說什麼。耶穌與我有什麼關係？為什麼他要為我這樣犧牲？

你要以基督耶穌的心為心：他原有上帝的本質，卻沒有濫用跟上帝同等的特權。相反地，他自願放棄一切，取了奴僕的本質。他成為人，以人的形體出現。他自甘卑微，順服至死，且死在十字架上。

（現中譯本）

CHAPTER 20

25 He sat in his customary place by the wall, opposite Jonathan,[a] and Abner sat next to Saul, but David's place was empty. 26 Saul said nothing that day, for he thought, "Something must have happened to David to make him ceremonially unclean—surely he is unclean." 27 But the next day, the second day of the month, David's place was empty again. Then Saul said to his son Jonathan, "Why hasn't the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?" 28 Jonathan answered, "David earnestly asked me for permission to go to Bethlehem. 29 He said, 'Let me go, because our family is observing a sacrifice in the town and my brother has ordered me to be there. If I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away to see my brothers.' That is why he has not come to the king's table." 30 Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you? 31 As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send someone to bring him to me, for he must die!" 32 "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" Jonathan asked his father. 33 But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David. 34 Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the feast he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father's shameful treatment of David.

THINK

1. Even though David and Jonathan are rivals for the same throne, they each set aside personal interests out of the deep affection they had for each other. Jonathan risked his father's anger, and even his life, on behalf of David. Later David restored the fortunes of Jonathan's youngest son (2Sam 9).
2. In all my relationships, which ones are covenantal (Marriage, family, culture...)? Have I faithfully fulfilled my promise in that covenant?

PRAYER

Continue the Prayer meditation of Ch 18. Read the following passage from Phil 2:3-4 as God speaking to me. Focus on the relationship Jesus has with me. Why would he do such a thing for me?

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. (The Message)

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv3-4, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY WORSHIP: Jonathan made an agreement with David that they'll be best friends forever. They promised to be good not just to each other, but to their children, too. We need to do all we can to protect each other. "Lord give us strength to do what is best for each other." Let's sing "Father, I Adore You."



第二十一章

1 大衛到了挪伯祭司亞希米勒那裡，亞希米勒戰戰兢兢地出來迎接他，問他說：你為什麼獨自來，沒有人跟隨呢？2 大衛回答祭司亞希米勒說：王吩咐我一件事說：我差遣你委託你的這件事，不要使人知道。故此我已派定少年人在某處等候我。3 現在你手下有什麼？求你給我五個餅或是別樣的食物。4 祭司對大衛說：我手下沒有尋常的餅，只有聖餅；若少年人沒有親近婦人才可以給。5 大衛對祭司說：實在約有三日我們沒有親近婦人；我出來的時候，雖是尋常行路，少年人的器皿還是潔淨的；何況今日不更是潔淨嗎？6 祭司就拿聖餅給他；因為在那裡沒有別樣餅，只有更換新餅，從耶和華面前撤下來的陳設餅。

思想：

1. 陳設餅是供奉在會幕之內，每逢安息日，作為感謝祭獻給耶和華。雖然只有祭司才可以吃，亞希米勒仍同意給大衛及他的隨從吃，只要他們在禮儀上是潔淨的。
2. 耶穌曾藉此事件，說明不應拘泥在形式上遵守禮儀規條；並藉此例子教導我們，行善與救命總是合法的，因為這類有憐憫的行為，才合乎律法的真義。（參考 馬太福音 12:1-8）
3. 我有沒有以某一些“聖經教導”，來批判別人？曾否堅持“聖經原則”，卻傷害了別人？
4. 我是否曾經得過神所給的「陳設餅」，幫助我渡過困難？是什麼？有什麼特別？

禱告：

主啊，求讓我真正地明白聖經，和認識你的心意。我不希望盲目地做個守律法的法利賽人，卻能在生活中，總要盡心盡性愛主，亦要愛別人如同我自己一樣活出主的樣式。

CHAPTER 21

1 David went to Nob, to Ahimelek the priest. Ahimelek trembled when he met him, and asked, "Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?" 2 David answered Ahimelek the priest, "The king sent me on a mission and said to me, 'No one is to know anything about the mission I am sending you on.' As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place. 3 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find." 4 But the priest answered David, "I don't have any ordinary bread on hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here—provided the men have kept themselves from women." 5 David replied, "Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever I set out. The men's bodies are holy even on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!" 6 So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

THINK

1. The "bread of the Presence" which was placed in the Holy Place in the tabernacle was used for a thank offering to the Lord on Sabbath. Although the bread was to be eaten only by the priests, Ahimelech agreed to give it to David and his men on the condition that they were ceremonially clean.
2. Jesus used this incident to illustrate the principle that the ceremonial law was not to be viewed in a legalistic manner (Mt 12:3-4). He also teaches that it is always lawful to do good and to save life. Such compassionate acts are within the true spirit of the Law, though they appear to contradict the letter of the Law.

PRAYER

Lord, teach me to truly understand the Bible and your will. I don't wish to blindly become a legalistic Pharisee, but to love God wholeheartedly and love others as myself. In this way, I may live a life that follows Jesus' example.

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv10, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Discussion: Is running away from trouble ever a good choice to make? David was a brave man; yet he ran away from Saul. Was he afraid of Saul? Does running away always mean you are afraid? God wants us to run away from trouble. Is someone trying to hurt you or get you in trouble? How can you run away?



第二十二章

11 王就打發人將祭司亞希突的兒子亞希米勒和他父親的全家，就是住挪伯的祭司都召了來；他們就來見王。12 掃羅說：亞希突的兒子，要聽我的話！他回答說：主啊，我在這裡。13 掃羅對他說：你為什麼與耶西的兒子結黨害我，將食物和刀給他，又為他求問神，使他起來謀害我，就如今日的光景？14 亞希米勒回答王說：王的臣僕中有誰比大衛忠心呢？他是王的女婿，又是王的參謀，並且在王家中是尊貴的。15 我豈是從今日才為他求問神呢？斷不是這樣！王不要將罪歸我和我父的全家；因為這事，無論大小，僕人都不知道。16 王說：亞希米勒啊，你和你父的全家都是該死的！17 王就吩咐左右的侍衛說：你們去殺耶和華的祭司；因為他們幫助大衛，又知道大衛逃跑，竟沒有告訴我。掃羅的臣子卻不肯伸手殺耶和華的祭司。18 王吩咐多益說：你去殺祭司吧！以東人多益就去殺祭司，那日殺了穿細麻布以弗得的八十五人；19 又用刀將祭司城挪伯中的男女、孩童、吃奶的，和牛、羊、驢盡都殺滅。

思想：

1. 掃羅王當初不肯聽從神的吩咐，貪愛那些“上好的”牲畜美物，沒有將亞瑪力人滅絕（15章）。現在卻為了私人的嫉妒及仇恨，將八十五個祭司及他們的家族全部殺滅；這就是掃羅遭神厭棄的情景。
2. 我有沒有曾經心中充滿報復之意？如果我的“目光”或“思想”能殺人的話，我的親友中有多少現在都已經死了？我如今還懷有任何仇恨的念頭嗎？
3. 有甚麼人或甚麼事會特別容易觸發我仇恨之心？如路面開車，工作場所，家人相處…等。當怒火中燒時，我當如何處理？

禱告：

向神承認我心中的感受：憤怒、嫉妒、仇恨、苦毒……。安靜片刻，然後讀這段經文，好像神正在親自對我說話，安靜地用心來體會，與神會話：

要把你自己交託上主；信靠他，他會幫助你。他要使你的公平如光照射；他要使你的正義如正午太陽。要耐心等候在上主面前；不要因興盛的人而懊惱，不要因惡謀得逞的人而不平。不要氣憤，不要發怒；不要懊惱，這對你有害無益。（詩37：5-8，現中譯本）

CHAPTER 22

11 Then the king sent for the priest Ahimelek son of Ahitub and all the men of his family, who were the priests at Nob, and they all came to the king. 12 Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." "Yes, my lord," he answered. 13 Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, giving him bread and a sword and inquiring of God for him, so that he has rebelled against me and lies in wait for me, as he does today?" 14 Ahimelek answered the king, "Who of all your servants is as loyal as David, the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard and highly respected in your household? 15 Was that day the first time I inquired of God for him? Of course not! Let not the king accuse your servant or any of his father's family, for your servant knows nothing at all about this whole affair." 16 But the king said, "You will surely die, Ahimelek, you and your whole family." 17 Then the king ordered the guards at his side: "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because they too have sided with David. They knew he was fleeing, yet they did not tell me." But the king's officials were unwilling to raise a hand to strike the priests of the LORD. 18 The king then ordered Doeg, "You turn and strike down the priests." So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. 19 He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with its men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys and sheep.

THINK

1. Saul didn't obey God's command by refusing to destroy the Amalekite king Agag, and the best animals, everything that was "good". But here, because of his own jealousy and hatred, he wiped out 85 priests and their families. This shows clearly the decline and inconsistency of Saul's reign.
2. When, if ever, have I been consumed with a desire for revenge? If looks or thoughts could kill, how many of my friends would be dead by now? Am I still bearing any hateful grudges?
3. What are the things or people that would easily trigger my anger? Ordinary things such as driving, workplace, family... How can I handle it in a Christian way?

PRAYER

Confess to God the emotions inside me: hatred, jealousy, anger, bitterness.... Stay quiet for a while, then begin to read this passage. Read it as if God is speaking to me right now. Listen quietly, meditate on it, have a conversation with God.

Open up before God, keep nothing back; he'll do whatever needs to be done: He'll validate your life in the clear light of day and stamp you with approval at high noon. Quiet down before God, be prayerful before him. Don't bother with those who climb the ladder, who elbow their way to the top. Bridle your anger, trash your wrath, cool your pipes—it only makes things worse. (Ps 37:5-8, MSG)



** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv11-19, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Discussion: Why did King Saul want to kill all the priests? Did they make any mistake? Have you ever get mad? What can we do when we are made? List ways we can do so we won't hurt ourselves or others. Pray for God's help in handling our anger.

第二十三章

19 西弗人上到基比亞見掃羅，說：「大衛不是在我們那裡的樹林裡山寨中、曠野南邊的哈基拉山藏著嗎？」 20 王啊，請你隨你的心願下來，我們必親自將他交在王的手裡。」 21 掃羅說：「願耶和華賜福與你們，因你們顧恤我。」 22 請你們回去，再確實查明他的住處和行蹤，是誰看見他在那裡，因為我聽見人說他甚狡猾。」 23 所以要看準他藏匿的地方，回來據實地告訴我，我就與你們同去。他若在猶大的境內，我必從千門萬戶中搜出他來。」 24 西弗人就起身，在掃羅以先往西弗去。大衛和跟隨他的人卻在瑪雲曠野南邊的亞拉巴。 25 掃羅和跟隨他的人去尋找大衛；有人告訴大衛，他就下到磐石，住在瑪雲的曠野。掃羅聽見，便在瑪雲的曠野追趕大衛。 26 掃羅在山這邊走，大衛和跟隨他的人在山那邊走。大衛急忙躲避掃羅；因為掃羅和跟隨他的人，四面圍住大衛和跟隨他的人，要拿獲他們。 27 忽有使者來報告掃羅說：「非利士人犯境搶掠，請王快快回去！」 28 於是掃羅不追趕大衛，回去攻打非利士人。因此那地方名叫西拉·哈瑪希羅結。 29 大衛從那裡上去，住在隱基底的山寨裡。

思想：

1. 大衛自身難保，心仍眷顧基伊拉城居民的安危；率領隨從去營救。但該城的居民可能出於懼怕，依然效忠掃羅（12節）。掃羅的軍隊緊迫追捕，大衛危在旦夕，突然非利士人犯境消息傳來，立刻化險為夷。
2. 無論掃羅如何接近去捉拿大衛，掃羅最終也不能改變上帝的計畫。在此情況下，眼看大衛就要被擒，卻因非利士人之故，掃羅被迫收兵，故此上帝竟然使用非利士人去挽救大衛。
3. 溫習17章的第2題，我心中的巨人（挑戰或是難題）是什麼？我如何面對？

禱告：

想像我就是大衛，正在瑪雲曠野逃亡時向神的禱求。體會大衛的心情，以及他禱告中所表達對神的投靠、與信心。為我目前所面對的難題，和大衛一同向神祈求。

上帝啊，求你憑你的權能救我；求你用你的大力為我伸冤。上帝啊，求你聽我的禱告；求你垂聽我的話。驕傲的人前來攻擊我；強暴的人想殺害我。他們眼中沒有上帝。我知道上帝是我的幫助；主是我生命的保護者。願上帝按照我敵人的惡行報應他們；他要憑著自己的信實消滅他們。上主啊，我要歡歡喜喜地向你獻祭；我要感謝你，因為你至善。你救我脫離了一切患難；我親眼看見了仇敵潰敗。（詩54篇，現中譯本）

CHAPTER 23

19 The Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah and said, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hakilah, south of Jeshimon? 20 Now, Your Majesty, come down whenever it pleases you to do so, and we will be responsible for giving him into your hands." 21 Saul replied, "The LORD bless you for your concern for me. 22 Go and get more information. Find out where David usually goes and who has seen him there. They tell me he is very crafty. 23 Find out about all the hiding places he uses and come back to me with definite information. Then I will go with you; if he is in the area, I will track him down among all the clans of Judah." 24 So they set out and went to Ziph ahead of Saul. Now David and his men were in the Desert of Maon, in the Arabah south of Jeshimon. 25 Saul and his men began the search, and when David was told about it, he went down to the rock and stayed in the Desert of Maon. When Saul heard this, he went into the Desert of Maon in pursuit of David. 26 Saul was going along one side of the mountain, and David and his men were on the other side, hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his forces were closing in on David and his men to capture them, 27 a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Come quickly! The Philistines are raiding the land." 28 Then Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to meet the Philistines. That is why they call this place Sela Hammahlekoth. 29 And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of En Gedi.

THINK

1. David, though running for his life, volunteered to aid the Israelite city of Keilah against the Philistines. Yet the people remained loyal to Saul, perhaps out of fear (v12). David had to go into wilderness areas where he might hide from Saul's army. Just when Saul's army was closing in, news about the Philistines' attack drew Saul away.
2. David and his men look like goners, but God's plan could not be changed by Saul. The irony is while Saul is David's enemy, the Philistines unwittingly became David's allies. Their attack is God's means of deliverance of David, from the grasp of Saul.
3. Review #2 of Ch 17, what giants (challenges or difficulties) am I facing right now? How do I face them?

PRAYER

Psalms 54 reflects David's fears and his faith in this critical situation. Pray with David:

Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me by your might. Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth. Arrogant foes are attacking me; ruthless people are trying to kill me—people without regard for God. Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me. Let evil recoil on those who slander me; in your faithfulness destroy them. I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; I will praise your name, LORD, for it is good. You have delivered me from all my troubles, and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes. (Ps 54)

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv15-18, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Activity: Review your family worship time. How can you improve it? Elect one family member to be in charge of planning as you read 2 Samuel next. Now turn to the person(s) not elected to be in charge. Let them express their immediate feelings. Pray together, "Help us to remember that none of us are in second place if we are doing what You want us to do."



第二十四章

3 到了路旁的羊圈，在那裡有洞，掃羅進去大解。大衛和跟隨他的人正藏在洞裡的深處。4 跟隨的人對大衛說：耶和華曾應許你說：我要將你的仇敵交在你手裡，你可以任意待他。如今時候到了！大衛就起來，悄悄地割下掃羅外袍的衣襟。5 隨後大衛心中自責，因為割下掃羅的衣襟；6 對跟隨他的人說：我的主乃是耶和華的受膏者，我在耶和華面前萬不敢伸手害他，因他是耶和華的受膏者。7 大衛用這話攔住跟隨他的人，不容他們起來害掃羅。掃羅起來，從洞裡出去行路。8 隨後大衛也起來，從洞裡出去，呼叫掃羅說：我主，我王！掃羅回頭觀看，大衛就屈身、臉伏於地下拜。9 大衛對掃羅說：你為何聽信人的讒言，說大衛想要害你呢？10 今日你親眼看見在洞中，耶和華將你交在我手裡；有人叫我殺你，我卻愛惜你，說：我不敢伸手害我的主，因為他是耶和華的受膏者。11 我父啊，看看你外袍的衣襟在我手中。我割下你的衣襟，沒有殺你；你由此可以知道我没有惡意叛逆你。你雖然獵取我的命，我卻沒有得罪你。12 願耶和華在你我中間判斷是非，在你身上為我伸冤，我卻不親手加害於你。

思想：

1. 大衛顯然有理由殺掃羅，但卻沒有這樣做，反倒選擇饒恕與和解。雖然他自己也是受膏者，但他一直以來對這位年長君王，仍舊保持尊他為自己的王的態度。
2. 大衛教導我們信徒當如何對待那些苦待我們的人：（1）我們將他們交給神，求他為我所受到苦申冤，（2）我們個人定意不去報仇。
3. 我有什麼關係上，需要學習這個功課？

禱告：

以禱告的心來讀這段耶柔米在他面對極多有權有勢的仇敵時所寫的，並禱告求問神，這段話對我的意義是什麼：

“若你以為基督徒可以過沒有苦難的生活，你是上當了。沒有任何災難的人，才是受最大苦的人。我們最當懼怕的，就是太長一段的太平時期。風暴會讓人警醒，並盡最大的努力避免沉船。”

CHAPTER 24

3 He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. 4 The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said[b] to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 5 Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. 6 He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." 7 With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way. 8 Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. 9 He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'?" 10 This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the LORD's anointed.' 11 See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. 12 May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.

THINK

1. David certainly has reasons to take Saul's life. He instead chose to forgive and reconcile. Although he too is the Lord's anointed, David always maintained his attitude of treating Saul as his king.
2. David's response teaches us how we as believers are to deal with those who victimize us. (1) We turn them over to the Lord, asking Him to avenge any wrongs they may have done to us. (2) We make a personal commitment not to take revenge.
3. In what relationship do I need to apply the lesson of this incident?

PRAYER

Prayerfully read this quote from St. Jerome written when he faced a great number of powerful enemies. Listen to what God is telling me regarding this quote.

"You are deceived if you think that a Christian can live without persecution. He suffers the greatest who lives under none. Nothing is more to be feared than too long a peace. A storm puts a man on his guard, and obliges him to exert his utmost effort to escape shipwreck."

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv16-20, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY PRAYER: Sometimes tears are not an accurate expression of what is going on inside a person's heart. We should not use tears to manipulate the emotions and actions of others. Let's pray that God will direct us in how we use our emotions. Pray that we will have a pure heart when we shed our tears.



第二十五章

23 亞比該見大衛，便急忙下驢，在大衛面前臉伏於地叩拜，24 俯伏在大衛的腳前，說：我主啊，願這罪歸我！求你容婢女向你進言，更求你聽婢女的話。25 我主不要理這壞人拿八，他的性情與他的名相稱；他名叫拿八，他為人果然愚頑。但我主所打發的僕人，婢女並沒有看見。26 我主啊，耶和華既然阻止你親手報仇，取流血的罪，所以我指著永生的耶和華，又敢在你面前起誓說：願你的仇敵和謀害你的人都像拿八一樣。27 如今求你將婢女送來的禮物給跟隨你的僕人。28 求你饒恕婢女的罪過。耶和華必為我主建立堅固的家，因我主為耶和華爭戰；並且在你平生的日子查不出有什麼過來。29 雖有人起來追逼你，尋索你的性命，你的性命卻在耶和華—你的神那裡蒙保護，如包裹寶器一樣；你仇敵的性命，耶和華必拋去，如用機弦甩石一樣。30 /31我主現在若不親手報仇流無辜人的血，到了耶和華照所應許你的話賜福與你，立你作以色列的王，那時我主必不致心裡不安，覺得良心有虧。耶和華賜福與我主的時候，求你記念婢女。

思想：

1. 亞比該的智慧化解了大衛因拿八對他的侮辱而引起的憤怒，阻止他利用領袖的權勢報復私仇。她承認拿八錯待大衛，將拿八拒絕給的食糧帶來給大衛，請求大衛的饒恕。這是我們可以學習，在得罪他人時，可以尋求和好。
2. 誰是我的「亞比該」？他怎樣阻止我犯罪闖禍？我是否願意像亞比該勸阻別人不犯罪嗎？

禱告：

使我作你（上帝）和平之子，在憎恨之處播下你的愛。
在傷痕之處播下你寬恕，在懷疑之處播下信心。
使我作你和平之子，在絕望之處播下你盼望。
在幽暗之處播下你光明，在憂愁之處播下喜樂。
哦主啊 使我少為自己求，少求受安慰但求安慰人，
少求被瞭解但求瞭解人。少求愛但求全心付出愛。
使我作你和平之子，在赦免時我們便蒙赦免。
在捨去之時我們便有所得，迎接死亡時我們便進入永生。

CHAPTER 25

23 When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. 24 She fell at his feet and said: "Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. 25 Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent. 26 And now, my lord, as surely as the LORD your God lives and as you live, since the LORD has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. 27 And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you. 28 "Please forgive your servant's presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the LORD's battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. 29 Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. 30 When the LORD has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, 31 my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD your God has brought my lord success, remember your servant."

THINK

1. Abigail's wisdom defused David's anger over Nabal's insults and rescued David from the needless bloodshed on his conscience. She admitted that Nabal had done wrong to David, brought the provisions that Nabal had refused to provide, and asked David's forgiveness.
2. When we have wronged people, it's wise to take the three steps taken by Abigail to seek reconciliation.
3. Who is my Abigail? How did he/she help prevent me from making a terrible mistake? Would I be an Abigail to someone when the situation comes?

PRAYER

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.*

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv18-19, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Discussion: At times we must act immediately. What are some of those times? What are some things we can do to ensure that our decisions and actions are in God's best interest? Are you as a family facing anything that calls for immediate action? What action do you need to take? Does each person know the effects of the action?



第二十六章

21 掃羅說：我有罪了！我兒大衛，你可以回來，因你今日看我的性命為寶貴；我必不再加害於你。我是糊塗人，大大錯了。22 大衛說：王的槍在這裡，可以吩咐一個僕人過來拿去。23 今日耶和華將王交在我手裡，我卻不肯伸手害耶和華的受膏者。耶和華必照各人的公義誠實報應他。24 我今日重看你的性命，願耶和華也重看我的性命，並且拯救我脫離一切患難。25 掃羅對大衛說：我兒大衛，願你得福！你必做大事，也必得勝。於是大衛起行，掃羅回他的本處去了。

思想：

1. 大衛又再有一次殺死掃羅的機會，但大衛仍然尊重他，不對他下毒手。掃羅許諾不再追殺大衛，並承認大衛將會“得福”，“必作大事，也必得勝”（25節）。掃羅此刻可能是真心地說出這番話，但是真誠的話語並不足夠帶來改變。
2. 有時候，我們也會誠懇地許諾，但這並不足夠。真誠使我們承諾，但需要決心來成就我們的諾言。保羅說“立志為善由得我，只是行出來由不得我”（羅7：18）。耶穌對他的門徒說“要警醒禱告，免得陷入誘惑。你們心靈固然願意，肉體卻是軟弱的。”（太26：41）

禱告：

我本軟弱主剛強，求主保守離罪網；
心靈滿足無憂傷，當我走，求領我進你旁。
經勞苦罪網世界，若我跌倒誰關懷？
若有重擔誰分負？親愛主，唯有你，我救主。
主，我願更親近你，與主相親樂無比，
每日同行更親密，親愛主，求你，懇求你。

CHAPTER 26

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong." 22 "Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it." 23 The LORD rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The LORD delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the LORD's anointed. 24 As surely as I valued your life today, so may the LORD value my life and deliver me from all trouble." 25 Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, David my son; you will do great things and surely triumph." So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

THINK

1. Once again, David had an opportunity to kill Saul. Saul promised to stop pursuing David and admitted that David would "do great things and surely triumph". The king might well have been sincere – for the moment. But sincere words are not sufficient evidence of reform.
2. Sometimes we are sincere when we make commitments. It is not enough. Sincerity moves us to make commitments. But it takes integrity to keep them. Paul said in Rm 7:18: "For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." Jesus encouraged his disciples: "Stay alert; be in prayer so you don't wander into temptation without even knowing you're in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there's another part that's as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire." (Matt 26:41, MSG)

PRAYER

*I am weak, but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to Thee.
Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv23-24, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Worship: God values human life. Whether a person is in the womb, lying by a campfire, or lying in a hospital bed, God values that human life. Let one person stand up at a time. Praise God through sentence prayers for each person. Sing together, "Jesus loves me."



第二十七章

7 大衛在非利士地住了一年零四個月。8 大衛和跟隨他的人上去，侵奪基述人、基色人、亞瑪力人之地。這幾族歷來住在那地，從書珥直到埃及。9 大衛擊殺那地的人，無論男女都沒有留下一個，又奪獲牛、羊、駱駝、驢，並衣服，回來見亞吉。10 亞吉說：你們今日侵奪了什麼地方呢？大衛說：侵奪了猶大的南方、耶拉篋的南方、基尼的南方。11 無論男女，大衛沒有留下一個帶到迦特來。他說：恐怕他們將我們的事告訴人，說大衛住在非利士地的時候常常這樣行。12 亞吉信了大衛，心裡說：大衛使本族以色列人憎惡他，所以他必永遠作我的僕人了。

思想：

1. 大衛經過長年累月的逃避掃羅的追殺，心中必定非常沮喪且極為失望，最後決定放棄，乃舉家逃往非利士地。離鄉別井住在非利士人當中，仰仗敵人鼻息以偷生，這位以色列將來的王，過著兩面人的生活，裝作忠於非利士王，出去攻擊以色列的城邑，事實上他卻是攻擊以色列的仇敵。他人可能會選擇敬畏神來保全他的百姓，大衛則選擇在極度壓力下，謀求兩全其美的殘喘偷生。
2. 實際生活中，很多時候，我們也會遭遇類似情況，可能帶著罪咎與惶恐生活、工作。可能公司營業方式有違神的原則，可能配偶極度鄙視耶穌，可能所在地壓榨窮苦無助的人，我盡力孝敬父母，但父母可能行為舉止令神的名蒙羞。然而，縱然在這樣的環境中，神仍然信實地作成我們得救的功夫，以及他在我們生命中的旨意。

禱告：

主啊，有時候我覺得環境幾乎要將我壓倒，我實在無法抵抗。但詩人以這些話來鼓勵我：我的心哪，你為何憂悶？為何在我裡面煩躁？應當仰望 神，因他笑臉幫助我；我還要稱讚他。白晝，耶和華必向我施慈愛；黑夜，我要歌頌禱告賜我生命的神。（詩42：5，8）感謝神，你是我的幫助和我的希望。

CHAPTER 27

7 David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months. 8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.) 9 Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish. 10 When Achish asked, "Where did you go raiding today?" David would say, "Against the Negev of Judah" or "Against the Negev of Jerahmeel" or "Against the Negev of the Kenites." 11 He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, "They might inform on us and say, 'This is what David did.'" And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory. 12 Achish trusted David and said to himself, "He has become so obnoxious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant for life."

THINK

1. David, feeling depressed and deeply disappointed after months and years of narrow escapes from Saul, decided finally to give up and move to Philistia. Living among the Philistines, David was forced to deny who he was – the future king of Israel. David lived a double life there, pretending to be a faithful servant of the Philistine king, when really he was raiding Israel's enemies and "saying" that he had raided Israelite towns. While others might have chosen survival over honouring God and preserving His people, David chose to do both while under stress.
2. In life there are times when we find ourselves in the company of those whose ultimate goals and desires go counter to the will of God. David, both to keep his people and himself safe in the land of the Philistines and to preserve the people of God, chose to be subversive to the king of the Philistines. Today, we may find ourselves in a company that does business unethically. Our spouses may loathe the name of Jesus. We may be in an economy that exploits the poor and not caring for the oppressed. We may be doing our best to honor parents who dishonor God in thought, word and deed. However, even in situations such as these, God is still faithfully working out our salvation and his purposes in our lives.

PRAYER

God, sometimes I find situations overwhelming and I cannot cope with. The Psalmist encouraged me with these words: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God. By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his son is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. (Psalm 42: 5,8)
Thank you, God, for being my help and my hope.

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read v12, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Activity: Do you have a relative that lives far away? Talk about the last time you saw the person. How do you feel about the person? How do you think the person feels? Give each person a piece of paper to write a letter or draw a picture to send to the far away person.



第二十八章

3 那時撒母耳已經死了，以色列眾人為他哀哭，葬他在拉瑪，就是在他本城裡。掃羅曾在國內不容有交鬼的和行巫術的人。4 非利士人聚集，來到書念安營；掃羅聚集以色列眾人在基利波安營。5 掃羅看見非利士的軍旅就懼怕，心中發顫。6 掃羅求問耶和華，耶和華卻不藉夢，或烏陵，或先知回答他。7 掃羅吩咐臣僕說：當為我找一個交鬼的婦人，我好去問他。臣僕說：在隱多珥有一個交鬼的婦人。8 於是掃羅改了裝，穿上別的衣服，帶著兩個人，夜裡去見那婦人。掃羅說：求你用交鬼的法術，將我所告訴你的死人，為我招上來。9 婦人對他說：你知道掃羅從國中剪除交鬼的和行巫術的。你為何陷害我的性命，使我死呢？10 掃羅向婦人指著耶和華起誓說：我指著永生的耶和華起誓，你必不因這事受刑。11 婦人說：我為你招誰上來呢？回答說：為我招撒母耳上來。

思想：

1. 舊約聖經嚴厲禁止交鬼、行巫術的等事（利19：31；申18：10-11）。掃羅也曾在國內不容有交鬼行巫的人。但他長期的違背神，以及大衛穩健地崛起，使得掃羅已經無計可施。他與神遠離，與真實地自我脫節，只好慌亂中抓住一根稻草，竟去找交鬼的婦人問卜。
2. 這是掃羅一生很悲慘的一頁，也讓我們看見，縱然我們有聖靈的恩膏，我們的心仍可以與神相離甚遠，甚至無法回到神祝福之處。
3. 在我屬靈的旅程中，我目前是在什麼地方？我與神的距離有多遠？
4. 我生命中曾有過什麼“大困難”，讓我迫切的尋求神的旨意？我去那裡找答案？我向什麼人尋求輔導？我是否曾閱讀我的星座，找人算命，或這類的事情？神怎麼看這些事情？

禱告：

找一個隱私的地方，花5-10分鐘。整個人面向下趴在地上，向神禱告。聆聽神要對我說的話，並與他對話。結束時，背誦羅馬書12:1-2作為我對神的委身。或是讀：

“我勸你們把自己當作活活的祭物獻給上帝，專心事奉他，蒙他喜悅。這就是你們應該獻上的真實敬拜。不要被這世界同化，要讓上帝改造你們，更新你們的心思意念，好明察甚麼是他的旨意，知道甚麼是良善、完全，可蒙悅納的。”（現中譯本）

CHAPTER 28

3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land. 4 The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all Israel and set up camp at Gilboa. 5 When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. 6 He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. 7 Saul then said to his attendants, “Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her.” “There is one in Endor,” they said. 8 So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. “Consult a spirit for me,” he said, “and bring up for me the one I name.” 9 But the woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?” 10 Saul swore to her by the LORD, “As surely as the LORD lives, you will not be punished for this.” 11 Then the woman asked, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” “Bring up Samuel,” he said.

THINK

1. The Old Testament forbids the use of sorcery, divination, or other occult practices (Lev 19:31, Deut 18:10-11). Saul himself had tried to rid the land of occult practitioners. Yet Saul's long disobedience and David's steady rise had taken their toll and he was at the end of his rope. Out of touch with God and out of touch with his true self, Saul grasped at anything, even a woman medium.
2. This is a sad chapter in Saul's life. It shows us that even though we have the anointing of God, our hearts can be far from him. It is possible for a person to wander so far from God that there is no way back to the place of blessing.
3. Where am I along this spiritual journey? How close or far am I from God?
4. What “great stress” in my life have I been seeking God's will in earnest? Where am I looking for answers? Whom am I consulting? Do I ever read my horoscope, seek out a fortuneteller, and other such practices? Is that acceptable to God?

PRAYER

Find a private space for 5-10 minutes. Lie face down on the floor. Listen to what God wants to tell me and have a conversation with Him. End the time with a prayer of dedication by reciting Ro 12:1-2 or reading:

“Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.(the MSG)”

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv3-11, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Discussion: Why did Saul want to find a witch? Does God like what Saul did? When you are worried and didn't know what to do, who do you turn to? If appropriate, instruct children the proper view of horoscope, tarot card, fortune telling and such. Parent lead a prayer of asking for God's wisdom and help.



第二十九章

1 非利士人將他們的軍旅聚到亞弗；以色列人在耶斯列的泉旁安營。2 非利士人的首領各率軍隊，或百或千，挨次前進；大衛和跟隨他的人同著亞吉跟在後邊。3 非利士人的首領說：這些希伯來人在這裡做什麼呢？亞吉對他們說：這不是以色列王掃羅的臣子大衛嗎？他在我這裡有些年了。自從他投降我直到今日，我未曾見他有過錯。4 非利士人的首領向亞吉發怒，對他說：你要叫這人回你所安置他的地方，不可叫他同我們出戰，恐怕他在陣上反為我們的敵人。他用什麼與他主人復和呢？豈不是用我們這些人的首級嗎？5 從前以色列的婦女跳舞唱和說：掃羅殺死千千，大衛殺死萬萬，所說的不是這個大衛嗎？6 亞吉叫大衛來，對他說：我指著永生的耶和華起誓，你是正直人。你隨我在軍中出入，我看你甚好。自從你投奔我到如今，我未曾見你有什麼過失；只是眾首領不喜悅你。7 現在你可以平平安安地回去，免得非利士人的首領不歡喜你。

思想：

1. 大衛面對著一個難題，非利士人要出兵攻擊以色列人，亞吉王要帶大衛一同出戰，攻擊以色列人的同胞。他內心必定很矛盾，一方面若是亞吉王發現大衛其實是以色列人未來的王，必會殺死他；但若跟他出戰，勢必要倒伐攻擊同胞，有違自己為王的身份。再一次，神拯救了他。其他的非利士首領拒絕讓大衛上陣，因此大衛退出戰場，平平安安地回家，他的生命與正直都得保全。
2. 試回想曾經面對兩面不討好的經驗，當時如何抉擇呢？如果再面對類似情況，我對神的信仰會怎樣影響我的決定？

禱告：

以此詩歌【神要開道路】作為今天的禱告：

神要開道路，在曠野無路之處，
雖未看見，祂已看顧，祂要為我開道路；
祂是我引導，領我靠近祂懷抱，
愛和力量，日日幫助，祂要開道路，祂要開道路。
祂必在曠野裡開道路引領我，
在沙漠中開江河供應我，
天地將要廢去，祂的話語永常存，在今日，祂要作新事。
神要開道路，在曠野無路之處，
雖未看見，祂已看顧，祂要為我開道路；
祂是我引導，領我靠近祂懷抱，
愛和力量，日日幫助，祂要開道路，祂要開道路。

CHAPTER 29

1 The Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, and Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel. 2 As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish. 3 The commanders of the Philistines asked, "What about these Hebrews?" Achish replied, "Is this not David, who was an officer of Saul king of Israel? He has already been with me for over a year, and from the day he left Saul until now, I have found no fault in him." 4 But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and said, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master's favor than by taking the heads of our own men?" 5 Isn't this the David they sang about in their dances: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands?" 6 So Achish called David and said to him, "As surely as the LORD lives, you have been reliable, and I would be pleased to have you serve with me in the army. From the day you came to me until today, I have found no fault in you, but the rulers don't approve of you. 7 Now turn back and go in peace; do nothing to displease the Philistine rulers."

THINK

1. David was in a dilemma. The Philistines were preparing for a major assault against the Israelites, and Achish wanted to bring David along. If Achish discovered David's true identity – Israel's king, he would kill David. If David fought for Achish, he would repudiate his true identity. Once again, God rescued him. The other Philistine rulers refused to allow David serve with Achish. So David was sent home and his life and integrity were both saved.
2. In my life, have I ever been caught in the middle of a course of action? What did I do? How does my Christian faith affect my decision now if faced with similar situation again?

PRAYER

Use this song GOD WILL MAKE A WAY by Don Moen as a prayer:

God will make a way where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me
He will be my guide hold me closely to His side
With love and strength for each new day
He will make a way, He will make a way
By a roadway in the wilderness He'll lead me
And rivers in the desert will I see
Heaven and earth will fade but His Word will still remain
He will do something new today

** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv6-7, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY PRAYER: Disappointment is hard to take. Have you been disappointed or felt rejected recently. Let each person share experiences and feelings. Ask, "Does God reject us?" Tell God how you feel. Thank Him for being with us and knowing how it feels to be rejected.



第三十章

21 大衛到了那疲乏不能跟隨、留在比梭溪的二百人那裡。他們出來迎接大衛並跟隨的人。大衛前來問他們安。 22 跟隨大衛人中的惡人和匪類說：「這些人既然沒有和我們同去，我們所奪的財物就不分給他們，只將他們各人的妻子兒女給他們，使他們帶去就是了。」 23 大衛說：「弟兄們，耶和華所賜給我們的，不可不分給他們；因為他保佑我們，將那攻擊我們的敵軍交在我們手裡。」 24 這事誰肯依從你們呢？上陣的得多少，看守器具的也得多少；應當大家平分。」 25 大衛定此為以色列的律例典章，從那日直到今日。

思想：

1. 當大衛要去營救被亞瑪力人擄去的所有人時，四百人跟隨他去了，但有兩百人因為太過疲乏，留下來。當大衛一隊人，帶著所有被擄的人及戰利物凱旋而歸時，大衛察覺到四百人中，有人不願與留下的人均分。
2. 大衛於是在眾人面前承認是神使得他們得到勝利，包括保佑他們，將敵軍交給他們等。因此，他宣佈所有的人，出戰的、或留守的，都平等，都當均分。
3. 當我培養與神親密的關係時，就會帶來愛心、憐憫、公義、正直的行為。我對媒體報導災難的消息，有什麼反應？對受迫害的人？

禱告：

「你要盡心、盡性、盡力、盡意愛主—你的神；又要愛鄰舍如同自己。」（路10:27）主啊，我願意像大衛一樣，專一的愛你，也愛別人如同自己。

CHAPTER 30

21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Valley. They came out to meet David and the men with him. As David and his men approached, he asked them how they were. 22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go." 23 David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us. 24 Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike." 25 David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this.

THINK

1. When David led his troops to rescue his people captured by the Amalekites, four hundred men went with him. Two hundred exhausted men stayed behind. When they returned victoriously with their people and booty, David perceived that some of the four hundred didn't want to share the spoils of war with those stayed behind.
2. David recognized and acknowledged to everyone that God was behind their victory including preserving their lives and handing their enemies to them. Therefore, David announced that everybody, both those went to war and those stayed behind, were equal and would share everything equally.
3. The closeness we cultivate with God will result in our acts in love, compassion, justice and righteousness. How do I react to news of disasters? To the oppressed?

PRAYER

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)
Lord, I want to be like David, to love you and to be close to you; and to love others as I love myself.

**** (DTFFWC) ****



(Read v6, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)
FAMILY PRAYER: Just as David knew his strength came from God, we know that is where we should look for our strength in troubling times. Have a family prayer, thanking God for His blessings and for providing strength when needed.

第三十一章

6 這樣，掃羅和他三個兒子，與拿他兵器的人，以及跟隨他的人，都一同死亡。 7 住平原那邊並約旦河西的以色列人，見以色列軍兵逃跑，掃羅和他兒子都死了，也就棄城逃跑。非利士人便來住在其中。 8 次日，非利士人來剝那被殺之人的衣服，看見掃羅和他三個兒子仆倒在基利波山， 9 就割下他的首級，剝了他的軍裝，打發人到（或譯：送到）非利士地的四境，報信與他們廟裡的偶像和眾民； 10 又將掃羅的軍裝放在亞斯她錄廟裡，將他的屍身釘在伯·珊的城牆上。 11 基列·雅比的居民聽見非利士人向掃羅所行的事， 12 他們中間所有的勇士就起身，走了一夜，將掃羅和他兒子的屍身從伯·珊城牆上取下來，送到雅比那裡，用火燒了； 13 將他們骸骨葬在雅比的垂絲柳樹下，就禁食七日。

思想：

1. 基利波的戰事中，掃羅及他的軍隊慘敗，掃羅及他的三個兒子，包括約拿單在內，都一同陣亡。最後雖然他自殺，卻顯示尊貴和勇氣；掃羅也曾是上帝所揀選膏立的以色列王，雖然他的屍體公開被侮辱，但基列雅比人冒生命危險去取回他們的屍體。這些人因為掃羅作王的初期曾拯救這城市（參十一章）；他們多年不忘感恩圖報。掃羅為王雖然瑕疵重重，死時卻莊嚴慎重。基列雅比為他安葬並禁食七日以表哀悼。
2. 掃羅的失敗，不是缺少軍事或政治的才幹，也不是因為以色列人的軟弱，而是他拒絕順從上帝的旨意。無論一個人怎樣有才幹和勇氣，除非他知道及承認歷史之主，否則歷史會證明他的失敗。這個原則可應用在任何人身上，正如應用在重要的人身上一樣。
3. 綜觀掃羅的一生，他的生與他的死，對我有什麼提醒與啟發？因著掃羅的一生，我決定要怎樣更改我生活的態度與方式？

禱告：

“神啊，自我年幼時，你就教訓我，直到如今，我傳揚你奇妙的作為。神啊，我到年老 白的時候，求你不要離棄我！等我將你的能力指示下代，將你的大能指示後世的人。”（詩71：17-18）

CHAPTER 31

6 So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together that same day. 7 When the Israelites along the valley and those across the Jordan saw that the Israelite army had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their towns and fled. And the Philistines came and occupied them. 8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. 9 They cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and they sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among their people. 10 They put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths and fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan. 11 When the people of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all their valiant men marched through the night to Beth Shan. They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan and went to Jabesh, where they burned them. 13 Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days.

THINK

1. Israel was defeated by the Philistines and Saul and his sons including Jonathan were killed. He was after all God's chosen anointed king of Israel. The bodies of Saul and his sons were taken by night from the walls of a Philistine city where they had been nailed for display. This was done by the men of Jabesh Gilead. In his first act as king, Saul had saved that city from the Ammonites. Its citizens now repaid his kindness. They traveled through the night at great risk to rescue his body and the bodies of his sons from further indignities. The life of God's anointed, as flawed as he was, ended reverently. He was respectfully laid out to rest, and those at his burial fasted and mourned for seven days.
2. Saul's failure is not his lack of military or political capabilities, nor the weakness of the people. Rather it was his refusal to obey God's will. No matter how talented and courageous a person is, history will prove him a failure unless he knows and acknowledge the Lord of history. This applies to everyone including the kings.
3. Looking back at Saul's life, and his death, what has been a reminder or inspiration to me? How would I alter my attitude and life style because of Saul's life?

PRAYER

"Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come."(Ps 71:17-18)



** (DTFFWC) **

(Read vv11-13, you may use a Children Bible for easier understanding)

FAMILY Discussion: The custom of fasting during prayer is not one we see often today. Discuss why fasting was an important part of prayer life during Bible times. Look up fasting in a Bible dictionary. Decide if your family should ever have a time of fasting.

聖經男人系列 – 掃羅

大英雄何竟死亡 — 成功男人的寫照？

「大英雄、大男人的悲情」

「尊榮者在山上被殺·大英雄何竟死亡？英雄何竟在陣上仆倒？英雄何竟仆倒？」這幾句感歎記載在撒母耳記下，大衛弔掃羅和他兒子約拿單的哀歌—「弓歌」內。歷代不少聖經學者反覆問這個問題，為何以色列第一任王帝的結局如斯悲情？為何一個這樣成功顯赫的男人落到一個這麼令人惋惜的下場？是成功男人的普遍現象？是掃羅這個男人的性格？是掃羅這個男人的權力慾？是百姓對他的壓力？是先知撒母耳的領導無方？是政敵大衛的挑釁？或是耶和華神的偏心和不公平？

「一登龍門後的掃羅」

掃羅的被選立完全是出於神的恩典，他知道，國民也知道，他並不是眾人皆認為最理想的人選。但掃羅有成長、有很成功的業績，眾人最後也信服他為王。一個被形容為外表令人羨慕，內心溫順害羞的人，為何「一登龍門聲價十倍」之後，會變為一個暴戾、自私自利和獨斷獨行的人？為何最終落得以上司、下屬和群眾為敵為仇的收場？這值得我們三思。是神選錯嗎？表面上是，因神自己也說後悔！但細看下，神後悔是因為掃羅的叛逆，不是他的無能。身在職場或教會位高權重的弟兄們，小心！小心！

歷史不少聖經學者嘗試淡化掃羅的失敗，將其個人的因素轉移為外在的影響。但無可否認，聖經對掃羅的評價極其負面，更清楚指出，掃羅自己個人要完全負起他自己的「糊塗」、好勝、獨斷專行和違命的責任，與人無尤。在此，希望嘗試從描述掃羅在其人生路途不同的哩程碑上，來看他如何走上末路、如何錯失出路的良機、如何面對自己、最後，如何面對神。

「你要變為新人」

為讓掃羅堅信是神的揀選，神在他被膏立後，派給他三顆定心丸，好叫他的身心靈皆得到印證和鼓舞。首先，驢已經找著了，他不須為未完成的任務煩惱；其次、有朝聖者代表神向他賜福；最後，神的靈充充滿滿的與掃羅同在。更重要的是，神賜他一個新心，一個能認識神的心，一個去領受這一切恩典的心和一個開拓新事工和挑戰的心。他脫胎換骨，變成一個新人。

「不可殺人—勇者和仁者」

因不忍基列雅比人被欺凌，更不能容忍亞捫人向以色列的挑戰，他義不容辭，以王帝的身份，招聚三十三萬人，成功解救雅比人。一個勇者終於誕生。

掃羅首場勝利後，有支持者提議翻舊帳，要懲治那些早前出言侮辱他及質疑他王位合法性的匪徒。掃羅本可以藉此來一個一箭雙鵰，一則可盡雪前恥，一則可揚名立威。但掃羅有大將之風、王者風範，輕輕一句「今日耶和華在以色列中施行拯救、所以不可殺人」，讓他贏取不少的掌聲。一個仁者也終於誕生。

「我要獻祭—把燔祭和平安祭帶來」

非利士人逼近，國家人民命懸一線，「士急馬行田」，掃羅恐怕神也會離開，沒有未等撒母耳來到，私自獻上燔祭，這就是撒母耳所指責掃羅的「糊塗事」？有何糊塗之可言？掃羅對撒母耳提交他義正詞嚴的理據：眾叛親離、最高領導人爽約、大敵當前，我可以做什麼？我還可以做什麼？為求保家衛國，我使用獻祭來求問耶和華神。這個還不夠合情合理嗎？為何不讚賞他當機立斷，反批評他抗命逆旨？

「絕對與相對的聽命」

掃羅收到的指令是什麼？就是「撒母耳必下到那裏獻燔祭和平安祭·要等候七日、等我到了那裏、指示你當行的事。」掃羅是明白的，否則他不須自辯及自圓其說。但問題的精結是，誰有權去重新演譯和表述先知的命令？此事件第一次暴露了掃羅內心的深層問題，和他與撒母耳和耶和華神之間的衝突，就是，他到底有沒有權去支配他自己的生存、生活和生命？其實我們在心底裡也時常問這個問題。

撒母耳對神心意的演譯簡單、直接，這個是「絕對」遵守的原則，不是「相對」遵守的問題。人在神的指令範疇上是沒有任何演譯和表述的權力。任何驚天地、泣鬼神的「合理」原因，也不能「合理地」改動神的吩咐。聖經藉著掃羅兒子約拿單的說話：「因為耶和華使人得勝、不在乎人多人少」，回答了掃羅的終極憂慮和恐懼。掃羅就是怕失敗、怕掉臉、怕「執輸行頭慘過敗家」，所以他不顧一切，為自己求福祉。

「神啊，我的方案比你的更好」

在亞瑪力人的事件上，掃羅用心良苦，將亞瑪力人和老弱傷殘的牛羊都滅盡了，惟愛惜亞甲王和上好的牛羊，打算當禮物送給耶和華。但他得來的回應，相信連他自己做夢亦未做過！神不單不欣賞他的一片「細心」，反以悖逆、頑梗入罪於他，使他與行邪術的和拜虛神和偶像的并列。問題在那？真的這麼嚴重？一個王帝不能有自己的計劃嗎？

其實很簡單，這與掃羅選擇不再等候撒母耳到達，而私自獻祭的事件同出一轍。就是話事權在誰手中？誰有權決定？誰有權決定什麼可做、什麼不可做、什麼是好、什麼是壞、什麼可留、什麼要棄？誰有權支配生死？誰才是大老闆？精結不在乎百姓和亞甲，亦不在乎牛、羊、牛犢、羊羔、並一切美物，更不在乎什麼是上好的或下賤瘦弱的，而是在乎這是誰說的、是誰的決議案？在神眼中，這個是絕對黑白分明，毫無半點灰色地帶。

掃羅按自己的心意和理解去分析及演繹神的命令。掃羅甚至考慮過百姓的意見，有意識的運用酌情權，修訂神的指示，構思一個更完美的「方案」去討好神。這個動機有錯嗎？有錯！錯在他認為自己可以任意、隨便的改動神的要求和命令。如此看來，他自覺可以與神平起平坐了，更試圖操縱大局而越過了神的領導。

「創意都算是罪？」

聖經記載耶和華神直接的講話，對我們的疑惑和困擾作出一個清晰的解答。神認為聽命、順從就是人對神的吩咐惟一的回應，任何有「創意」及有「建設性」的修訂和更改，就是罪、都是罪。因這就是與神對立為敵的罪，就如邪術、虛神和偶像與神對立為敵一樣。因此，神厭棄掃羅作王，因為掃羅厭棄耶和華作他的王、作他的神。

「逼上梁山—為我招撒母耳上來」

為什麼掃羅要找一個交鬼的婦人？為什麼要推翻自己所發的禁令，冒天下人之譴責、犯著與神為敵的險，孤注一擲，挺而走險？因為他自覺走投無路、求救無門。掃羅看見非利士人又一次聚集犯境，但今次形態很不同，他的屬靈長輩撒母耳已過身，不能為他掌舵，長勝將軍大衛已逃之夭夭，不能為他把關。他今次「醒目」，主動的求問神。但最令他失望的是，「耶和華卻不藉夢、或烏陵、或先知、回答他。」神沒有直接與掃羅個人聯繫，也沒有藉著祭司或先知與掃羅交往，神「隱形」了，閃躲了。是神的問題？是掃羅的問題？掃羅最後「被逼」挺而走險，人不為己，天誅地

滅，一不做、二不休，你不答我，我就去找你的對頭，找一個交鬼的婦人，求平安、求出路。就好像歷代誌下十六章記載：「亞撒作王三十九年、他腳上有病、而且甚重、病的時候沒有求耶和華、只求醫生」。掃羅和亞撒「明知山有虎，偏向虎山行」！是魯莽、是鬥氣、是懷恨在心、是憤憤不平、是報復、是挑戰、還是誓不低頭？這是否正正是我們男人的「死頂」、「死要面」、「死不認錯」、「死不悔改」的死結和死路？

其實最大的問題是，你有沒有嚴嚴的反問和省察自己，神為何選擇不回答你的禱告和求問呢？或者是，你根本不需要三番四次的追問，神的心意和命令是明明可知的，只是我們選擇不理不睬，不當作神榮耀他、也不感謝他。我們的思念便變為虛妄、無知的心就昏暗了，自稱為聰明、反成了愚拙。

當你走投無路時，你應該如何處理？當你身陷死地時，你應該如何選擇？看看猶大(雅各之子)、約瑟、參孫、大衛、約拿、及十字架旁的一個強盜等人，看他們如何可以絕處逢生、化腐朽為神奇；又看看該隱、羅得、猶大(主的門徒)、亞拿尼亞和撒非喇等人，看他們如何泥足深陷，一步一步的走向滅亡。

(作者：簡祺亮，轉載自http://awakensouls.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=101%3Aarticlenoah&catid=1&Itemid=61)

