

KING’S SCHOOL: HARD KNOCKS

1 Samuel 19-23

Introduction: All of the experiences of our lives, both positive and negative, are means by which God equips us for effective service. Recognizing this potential purpose can give hope when the training is hard (Acts 14:22; 2 Cor. 1:3-11).

I. Training in Solitude – David the Shepherd Boy (17:34-37)

1. Lesson: The spiritual choices of one’s _____ can have a powerful influence on one’s destiny (16:11-13)
2. Lesson: Faithfulness in _____ assignments often prepares the believer to be effective in larger ones.
3. Lesson: God’s faithfulness in the _____ is one basis for trust in the present.

II. Training in Conquest – David the Warrior (17:40-51; 18:5)

4. Lesson: How we feel and what we do is determined by what we _____. Accordingly, we must bring our “belief system” into alignment with God’s view of reality in order to “see” with the eyes of faith.
5. Lesson: Opportunities for victory come to those who are _____ for conflict.
6. Lesson: In my conflict with evil, I can expect to be challenged by _____ - _____ giants.
7. Lesson: The bigger the obstacle, the greater the demonstration of God’s _____.
8. Lesson: In my conflict with evil, I am not responsible for the _____. I am responsible for what I _____.
9. Lesson: Whatever the battle, it is always “the _____.” He is the One who brings about victory.

III. Training in Survival – David the Fugitive

A. On the run

1. From Saul (19:12)
2. To Ramah/Naioth (19:18)
3. To Gibeah (20:1)
4. To Nob (21:1-9)
5. To Gath (21:10-14)
6. To Adullam (22:1-2)
7. To Mizpah in Moab (22:3-5)
8. To Forest of Hereth (22:5) [Saul/Doeg slaughter priests/people of Nob (22:6-23)]
9. To Keilah (delivered from Philistines) (23:1-6)
10. To the Desert of Ziph (23:7-28)
11. To En Gedi (23:29)

B. David’s Predicaments and God’s Purposes

1. David’s situation
 - a. Though anointed by Samuel and blessed with the presence of God’s Spirit, he was hated by Saul who was serious about killing him.
 - b. Still young and inexperienced

- c. Perplexed by Saul's antipathy – this was not fair!
- d. Because Saul is God's "anointed," he cannot be David's enemy (like the Philistines). All he can do is distance himself from Saul.
- e. He is alone – separated from his family, his wife, his best friend, the prophet.
- f. For some reason, he seems to be getting no help from God
 - 19:18-24 (Samuel)
 - 20:22 (Jonathan)
 - 22:10, 15 (Ahimelech)
 - 22:5 (Gad)
 - 23:1-6 (Abiathar)

2. David's problems

- a. The _____ of Saul (20:3) "there is only a step between me and death"
- b. The _____ of God (22:3) "until I learn what God will do for me"

3. God's purpose: to train David to be Israel's king

- a. Primary Lesson: If you try to do God's work in reliance on your own _____, you will make a hash of it and end up looking like an _____.
- b. Methodology: Place David in situations that are _____ him so he can appreciate his _____ (but with a safety net).

C. More Lessons in King School

- 10. Lesson: Sometimes the best you can do is the _____ you can do.
- 11. Lesson: No leader is qualified to lead in God's kingdom until he recognizes that he is _____ to lead.
- 12. Lesson: There is never a time when God is not working out his _____ in you and through you.
- 13. Lesson: The _____ of God are as purposeful as the revelations of God.
- 14. Lesson: Sometimes the wisdom we pray for in the midst of a trial is given in the lessons learned _____ the trial. (Psalm 34)
- 15. Lesson: "No Good Deed Goes Unpunished"
- 16. Lesson: Divine omniscience includes the knowledge of all things actual and all things _____

D. [Bonus] The Primary Need of the One who is in Survival Training: _____

1. Divine Encouragement: How God encouraged David:

- a. God encouraged David through a believing brother.
- b. God encouraged David by providing him with the truth.
- c. God encouraged David by giving him a meaningful assignment.
- d. God encouraged David by rewarding his faith.
- e. God encouraged David by intervening on his behalf.

2. Human Encouragement: How we can encourage others

- a. True encouragement comes from those who take the initiative to provide it.
- b. True encouragement comes at the right moment and is expressed in the right words. (Prov. 25:11)
- c. True encouragement addresses fear and promotes courage (1 Thess. 5:14).
- d. True encouragement gives courage to the discouraged one by turning his eyes toward God.
- e. True encouragement comes from those who exemplify courage, not just those who talk about it (See Acts 9:26-28; 27:21-26, 33-37).
- f. True encouragement comes from those who are themselves submissive to the will of God.