

The Blessings of a Walk with the Lord

1 Samuel 18

Introduction:

1. In chapter 17, we saw David go from being a youth to a renowned giant killer. This incredible feat brought David much notoriety, and King Saul himself gave David a position in the palace as general over all his armies. vs. 2, 5
2. But some of David's greatest tests wouldn't take place against the Philistines on the battlefield, but rather would take place with King Saul in the king's court.
3. Life is all about relationships—our daily relationships with people. But life is also a series of trials and tests. Life is all about the daily choices we make.
4. The key to a life of daily victory is a constant walk with Jesus Christ. Notice a recurring theme in this chapter (vs. 12, 14, 28). The Lord was with David in all that he endeavored to do.
5. In the Old Testament, God would come upon people for special purposes. Today, it is different. The moment you trust Christ as your Savior, God's Spirit takes up residence inside the believer. All believers have Christ living inside of them.
6. But the idea here, in this chapter, is that David **welcomed** God's presence in his life, and truly desired to walk with God. Does this describe you, today?
7. Do you have God's presence in your heart? If so, are you welcoming His presence and walking with Him in daily fellowship? Colossians 2:6; 2 Corinthians 6:16 (Notice, God not only wants to **dwell** in you, but **walk** in you.)
8. We see exemplified in David the blessings and benefits of a daily walk with the Lord. Every believer must engage in a daily walk with Christ. Why is this so crucial?

First, it will enhance your relationship with others. vs. 1-7

1. Did you know that Christ is compatible with Himself? What is my point? If you get two people (husband and wife for example), who are both walking with Christ, do you think there will be harmony in that relationship?
2. Here in our text is a great example. Jonathan was King Saul's son. David was to be the next king of Israel. But, by all rights, Jonathan should have inherited the crown.
3. There was definitely an opportunity for great friction between David and Jonathan. Here is the amazing part. The exact opposite was true. They became close, bosom buddies. vs. 1, 3, 4
 - We know from chapter 14 that Jonathan was also a great man of faith who walked with the Lord. This made for harmony in their relationship with each other.
4. Notice verse 5. As David walked with the Lord, he behaved himself wisely and was accepted of the people and Saul's servants.
5. As David sought to make sure that his vertical relationship with the Lord was right, this enhanced his horizontal relationship with others.

6. Christian, the foundation of your life should be your relationship and walk with Christ. All of your other relationships are predicated on this. But if your walk with Christ is not there, it will ill affect all of your other relationships. They will not be as sweet as they could be.

Second, it will take the fear out of life.

1. The Bible says that fear brings torment. How true this is! Our world is so full of fear: Fear that we will lose our health, fear of death, fear that our marriage will break up, fear we will lose our job, and on and on we could go.
2. Many times we fear people. We fear what people think of us, what they will do to us, what they will say about us, etc.
3. Here in our text, King Saul heard the praises and acclaim that people were heaping upon David, and he became very jealous and angry (vs. 6-9). Saul actually tried to murder David twice. vs. 10-11
4. When this failed, Saul tried a more deceptive approach (vs. 25). Each time that Saul tried to kill David, he failed. Why (vs. 12, 28)? This really shook up old Saul.
5. Despite the king of the nation trying to kill him, we don't see David panicking and fretting. We see a humble, yet bold and confident, young man. How could this be? He knew he was walking with the Lord.
6. When you are walking with Christ, it takes the fear out of life. Psalm 56:4; 118:6; Hebrews 13:5-6; 2 Timothy 1:7
7. You don't fear what this world or what man throws at you. You know that God is on your side (Romans 8:31). Saul, on the other hand, was fearful and paranoid (vs. 15, 29a). Why? Saul was no longer walking with the Lord. He was full of himself.

Third, it will enable you to cope with disappointment. vs. 13-19

1. In these verses, David is handed two great disappointments:
 - First, David is demoted by Saul from being general over the entire army (Saul's right hand man), to being simply a captain over 1,000 men (vs. 13).
 - Second, Saul makes David a promise, and then breaks his promise. vs. 17-19
2. How did David handle these two great disappointments? Did he pout, quit, give up, get angry, explode, blame God, and stop serving God?
3. Notice how he responded in verse 14. David remained faithful and kept serving God. Yes, he deserved better, and yes, he was done dirty and wrong. But, he stayed faithful in the place where God had him. Why? He was walking with the Lord.
4. Even when you walk with the Lord, disappointments are sure to come. They are a part of this sin-cursed world. When you love God and walk with Him, not everybody will like you and pat you on the back. vs. 28-29; 2 Timothy 3:12

5. This is why your walk with the Lord must be the most important thing in your life. When disappointments and heartaches come, you can stay faithful and still behave yourself very wisely, as David did. Remember, David eventually became king!
6. If he didn't walk with the Lord, he wouldn't have remained faithful. And if he hadn't remained faithful, he would have never become king.

In Conclusion:

1. All through the events of this chapter, through the good and bad, David continued to walk with the Lord.
2. What is the end result of this that we see here? Look at verse 30. David kept a good name among the people. He had a good testimony for the Lord.
Proverbs 22:1
3. It takes consistency and faithfulness to establish a good name, but only a few minutes to destroy it.
4. This is why your walk with Christ is so crucial. Are you walking with Jesus Christ daily? Are you reading His Word, communing with Him, depending on Him all throughout the day, asking His advice, and seeking His counsel?
5. Is your walk with the Lord where it needs to be? If not, allow this example of David to inspire you today.