



Lesson 48 (1 Samuel 20:35-21:9): Parting and Subterfuge: Rejoice in sufferings

Read James 1:2-4, 12. What does the testing of our faith produce?

Why should that be cause for rejoicing?

Read James 1:19-21. What is the prohibition given here?

Is the prohibition against an emotion?

What does that tell you about the emotion?

What will giving in to this emotion produce in us?

What is it that will save our souls?

Read Romans 12:9-12. How do Jonathan and David demonstrate these qualities (albeit, not perfectly)?

Read Ephesians 4:25-32. What are we to put away?

For what reason?

Why would that matter? (Hint: what happens when you delude yourself?)

What might give the devil opportunity to get into your life?

What kind of talk are we to have (verse 29)?

Does this mean telling “white lies” so we don’t hurt anyone’s feelings? (Hint: the answer is in verse 25)

What things should all be put away from us?

What should we strive to be like?

Consider how Saul’s character would stand up to these verses. What characteristics (from these verses) would you attribute to Saul?

Read 2 Peter 1:3-9. What are we to supplement our faith with?

What is the “end” of this chain?

Why does Peter tell us we want these qualities?

Why do we, as Christ followers, want to have these qualities, and want them to increase?

Read 1 Peter 2:18-21. If we suffer for doing evil, is that of any benefit to us?

What suffering is of benefit?

How was Saul suffering in 1 Samuel?

For what reason (righteousness or evil) did David’s suffering begin?

If David had read these words of Peter and been admonished not to sin and so suffer for sin, what actions of his might have been different from today’s lesson?

There are always consequences for our actions. Always. Saul has learned that the hard way, as he has consistently chosen evil (his own will) over good (God’s will.) David has, up until this interaction with Jonathan, Saul and Ahimelech, suffered for doing good. What comfort has he had in his suffering, up to this point?

Read 1 Kings 17:1-6. Elijah was in a similar position to David at this point. Elijah was hiding from the king, just as David was. Elijah had no food, just as David had no food. Who provided food for Elijah? Who provided food for David in 1 Samuel 21? (Hint: not the same One who provided for Elijah.)

As you come before Your Father today, consider the motives of your heart. Are your emotions controlling you, or are you in control of them? (That doesn’t mean not having emotions; it means not sinning regardless of the emotion you feel.) Are you “suffering for righteousness” or are you suffering justly? Are you compounding the situation you are in by adding sin to it, or are you trusting in God to provide all that you need, in word and action, as you hold fast to His Word? Saul chose his own way 98% of the time. The results were disastrous. Learn from his sins, from the damage that his actions caused to himself and to all those around him. Ask yourself, who is really in control of your life, you...or Him? Ask Him to help you to be free from those strongholds that you are in today. We all struggle and we all sin, but that should never be a reason to stay complacently in that sin. Repent today. Confess those sins, and ask Him to be your strength when you are tempted by those again. He will provide a way out.