

## “Flying Spears!”

### I. **INTRO:**

- A. While Saul was *guarding* his throne, David was *being prepared* for his!
- B. “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!”(16:12). This remarkable event led this young man David, not to the throne, but to a **decade** of *hellish agony & suffering*???
1. On this day David was enrolled, **not** into the lineage of **royalty**, but into **the school of brokenness!**<sup>1</sup>
  2. Last chapter David had killed *another bear*. **However**, this one was 9’ tall & human. **The result of which made him an overnight folk hero!**
  3. **Next**, David finds himself in the castle of a mad king, & in circumstances that were as insane as the king himself.
    - a) King Saul was *mad, jealous, & felt threatened* by David, & Saul wanted to know one thing; *would David ascend the throne by fair means or foul?*
      - (1) This only drove Saul even **more mad** the way David handled himself.
  4. God also wanted to know something: **Would David serve Me as a broken vessel? Would he be willing to live in pain?**
- C. (Gene Edwards: A Tale of Three Kings; pg.13) “God has a university. It’s a small school. Few enroll, even fewer graduate. Very, very few indeed. God has this school because **He does not have** broken men.”
1. **David was once a student in this school, & Saul was God’s chosen way to crush David.** As the king grew in **madness**, David grew in **understanding**.
    - a) David didn’t **create** problems for Saul; he **revealed** the deep-seated problems that were already there.
- D. **Your Saul** might be any authority figure you sense is attacking you: an insecure boss, a controlling pastor, a domineering parent.
1. **Are you experiencing the pain of friendly fire?**
  2. **Ever been attacked by someone you thought was on your side?**

### II. **FLYING SPEARS!**

- A. **LOVE!** (1-4)
- B. Their relationship provides us the most inspiring pictures of **friendship** in all the bible.

<sup>1</sup> Gene Edwards: A Tale of Tree Kings.

1. The charge that David & Jonathan's relationship was *homosexual* is completely erroneous. The claim is usually the twisting of 2 Sam.1:26 "*Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women*" which was simply a tribute to Jonathan **after** his death.
  2. They were both seasoned soldiers & not young adolescents (Jon was 25-28 yrs older)
  3. This kind of *manly affection* that **comrade in arms** understand.
  4. When Jonathan gave his official garments & his armor to David, making him a friend & equal, Jonathan was acknowledging that David would 1 day take his place.<sup>2</sup>
    - a) Remember *Haman* in Esther, when asked by the king what should I do to honor someone in my kingdom? Have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor. Esther 6:8,9 (Mordecai not Haman)
- C. The encouragement of a **close friend** makes the valleys of our lives seem less vast, less threatening, less ominous.
- D. Let's learn from David in his *5 potential spears*, in which, any one of them that could have turned him into a human *shish-kebab!* [Turkish: *sis*=skewer; *kebab*=roast meat]
1. Popularity; Envy & Anger; Fear; Front lines.
- E. **POPULARITY!** (5-7)
- F. Prov.27:21 NIV The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives.
1. Just as the **crucible & furnace** test the metal & prepare it for use, **so praise tests & prepares** people for what God has planned for them.
  2. How we respond to **praise** reveals what we're made of & whether or not we're ready to take on new responsibilities.
  3. If **praise humbles** us, then God can use us, **but** if **praise puffs up**, we're not yet ready for promotion.
    - a) At this time David's a *rock star* after the Goliath incident.
    - b) They cheered his giant leap from the **lowest** rung to the **highest**; from **raw recruit** to **company commander!**
  4. In his *attitudes, conduct, & service*, David was a complete success. Everyone recognized this & **praised** him publicly.

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<sup>2</sup> Warren Wiersbe: Be Successful; pg.100.

G. David's **submission** to Saul is a **good lesson** to not push our way up *life's ladder* but leave the lifting to God instead.

1. To be **exalted** requires only that we **humble ourselves** before the Lord & respect His plan & timing.
  - a) Lk.1:52 **He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble**
  - b) James 4:10 **Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

H. **ENVY & ANGER!** (8-11)

- I. "It's a dangerous crisis when a **proud heart** meets with **flattering lips**" said John Flavel, 17th cent British Presbyterian clergyman & author.
  1. What the women sang didn't seem to affect David but their song enraged Saul
  2. (8b) **What?** He already gave up the kingdom! (see 15:28)
  3. When **John the Baptist** heard of the great success of Jesus & his disciples he said, "**He must increase & I must decrease!**"
    - a) **Saul** on the other hand thought, "**I must increase & he must decrease!**"
  4. **Envy** is a dangerous & insidious enemy, a *cancer* that slowly eats out our inner life & leads us to say & do terrible things.
    - a) Prov.14:30 rightly says, **envy rots the bones!**
    - b) **Envy** is the pain we feel within when somebody achieves or receives what we think belongs to us. (Wiersbe)
    - c) **Envious people** max out their credit cards to buy things they don't need just to impress people who really don't care!
  5. Often when you're *envious of others* you become very sensitive to what people are saying about you. Then what starts as **envy** often develops into **suspicion**, then **fear**, then **anger**, then **hatred**, and can escalate to **murder!**
    - a) This explains why Saul threw his spear at David.
    - b) This would hurl David headlong into a period of *mistreatment, discouragement, & pain*. **It didn't seem fair. But then** neither do most trials we must endure on the hard road to spiritual maturity.
      - (1) Wow, who would have thought **killing a giant** would bring such intense opposition from Saul, whom he was killing him for?

J. (11) **Almost getting pinned to the wall!**

K. One of the simplest, most effective, & universal of the ancient weapons is the **spear**.

1. It is so easy, pretty much anyone can learn to throw one. (Yes, a **physical** one...but also **emotional** one's are just as easy)

- L. What do you do when someone throws a spear at you? (David didn't know)
1. David it's easy, you pull it out of the wall & *throw it back!* **Everyone else does it**
  2. **Why?** Because you'll prove a number of things: **That...**
    - a) You are courageous. You stand for the right. You boldly stand against the wrong. You are tough & can't be pushed around. You will not stand for injustice or unfair treatment done against you. You are a *defender of the faith, keeper of the flame, detector of heresy*. You will not be wronged.
      - (1) Thus proving **you** are also **anointed...but after the order of King Saul!**
      - (2) And maybe just maybe, in 20 years you will be **the best spear thrower** in all the kingdom!
  3. **David was different.** He didn't seem to know what to do when someone threw spears at him. He **didn't throw them back**. He **didn't make spears of his own**. He **didn't start packin** spears when he came to work. All he did was dodge.
    - a) **Note contrast in 10b:** *What was in David's hand? What was in Saul's?*
- M. Do you have a spear throwing **Saul** in your life? One who can throw spears at you simply because he/she can? Saved or not saved? It really doesn't matter. God probably won't even tell you, because it's not the point.
- N. **FEAR!** (12)
- O. **Now Saul was afraid** - The Lord protected His servant David from Saul's murderous hand, a fact that **frightened** Saul even more. (**also see** vs.15, 29)
- P. **FRONT LINES!** (13-16)
- Q. Since David was an excellent soldier & a born leader, the logical thing was to give him assignments that would take him **away from** the safety of the camp **to** the front lines where the enemy could kill him.
1. Thus, if David was killed in battle, it was the enemy's fault right?
  2. And, if he **lost a battle**, but **lived**, his popularity would wane.
    - a) But the plan **backfired...he won all the battles!** - Remember, the Lord was *with him & the power of God was upon him!*
    - b) This just made him into a greater hero!
- R. In all this, David *never* considered Saul his **enemy**, which kept David in the place of God's blessing.
1. David remained a **humble servant** in spite of his great victories, for he knew that God's anointing was upon him.
  2. **God used those difficult experiences of conflict to help make David a great man of faith.**

3. As one said, "*Faith is living without scheming*" [Saul was better at **scheming** than **trusting**!]

S. Ps: 3 reminders: #1 Never learn anything about the fashionable, easily-mastered art of spear throwing. #2 Stay out of the company of all spear throwers. #3 Keep your mouth tightly closed.

1. In this way, spears will never touch you, even when they pierce your **heart**.

T. Ps #2: You may have your eyes on the *wrong* King Saul!

1. As long as you look at him, you'll blame him, & him alone, for your present hell or hardship.

2. **Be careful**, for God has His eyes fixed sharply on **another** King Saul.

a) Not the visible one standing up there throwing spears at you.

No, God is looking at another King Saul.

One just as bad...or worse! God is looking at the King Saul in **you**!

3. **You are King Saul!** And there is only 1-way to get rid of him...he must be annihilated.

4. **And, how does God get rid of this *inner* Saul? God uses the *outer* Saul.**

U. **Communion:**

V. "You can tell when someone has been hit by a spear; **they** turn a deep shade of **bitter**."

1. Jesus offers you Himself as the **communion bread** to dispel any & all **bitterness** this morning.

2. Jesus offers you the **communion cup of His blood** this morning to clean away any spear marks on your heart.