

MARCH 27

Read 1 Samuel 20–21

CHAPTER 20

AND David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what *is* mine iniquity? and what *is* my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

2 And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? *it is not so.*

3 And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly *as* the LORD liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, *there is* but a step between me and death.

4 Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do *it* for thee.

5 And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow *is* the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let

me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third *day* at even.

6 If thy father at all miss me, then say, David earnestly asked *leave* of me that he might run to Bethlehem his city: for *there is* a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.

7 If he say thus, *It is well*; thy servant shall have peace: but if he be very wroth, *then* be sure that evil is determined by him.

8 Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the LORD with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldst thou bring me to thy father?

9. And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee: for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?

10 Then said David to Jonathan, Who shall tell me? or what *if* thy father answer thee roughly?

11 ¶ And Jonathan said unto

David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

12 And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about to morrow any time, *or* the third *day*, and, behold, *if there be* good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee;

13 The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father *to do* thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:

15 But *also* thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

16 So Jonathan made *a covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, Let the LORD even require *it* at the hand of David's enemies.

17 And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

18 Then Jonathan said to David,

To morrow *is* the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

19 And *when* thou hast stayed three days, *then* thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was *in hand*, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel.

20 And I will shoot three arrows on the side *thereof*, as though I shot at a mark.

21 And, behold, I will send a lad, *saying*, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows *are* on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for *there is* peace to thee, and no hurt; *as* the LORD liveth.

22 But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows *are* beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away.

23 And *as touching* the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD *be* between thee and me for ever.

24 ¶ So David hid himself in the field: and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat.

25 And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, *even* upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan

arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty.

26 Nevertheless Saul spake not any thing that day: for he thought, Something hath befallen him, he *is* not clean; surely he *is* not clean.

27 And it came to pass on the morrow, *which was* the second *day* of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day?

28 And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked *leave* of me *to go* to Bethlehem:

29 And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me *to be there*: and now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table.

30 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious *woman*, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness?

31 For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?

33 And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David.

34 So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.

35 ¶ And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.

36 And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. *And* as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

37 And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, *Is* not the arrow beyond thee?

38 And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master.

39 But the lad knew not any thing: only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

40 And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry *them* to the city.

41 ¶ *And* as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of *a place* toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

42 And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

CHAPTER 21

THEN came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why *art* thou alone, and no man with thee?

2 And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and

hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed *my* servants to such and such a place.

3 Now therefore what is under thine hand? give *me* five *loaves* of bread in mine hand, or what there is present.

4 And the priest answered David, and said, *There is* no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women.

5 And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women *have been* kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and *the bread is* in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.

6 So the priest gave him hallowed *bread*: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.

7 Now a certain man of the servants of Saul *was* there that day, detained before the LORD; and his

name *was* Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that *belonged* to Saul.

8 ¶ And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.

9 And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it *is here* wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take *it*: for *there is* no other save that here. And David said, *There is* none like that; give it me.

10 ¶ And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

11 And the servants of Achish said unto him, *Is* not this David the

king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

12 And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

13 And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrambled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.

14 Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore *then* have ye brought him to me?

15 Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this *fellow* to play the mad man in my presence? shall this *fellow* come into my house?

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In chapter 20 we see a beautiful story of selfless love. Jonathan is heir to the throne of Saul and, in a sense, a throne rival. Yet, far from being jealous or envious of David, "Jonathan loved him as his own soul" (chapter 18:1).

Chapter 21 records David's flight to Nob and Gath after leaving Jonathan. Here he encounters Ahimelech, the high priest. It was the Sabbath; David was hungry and unarmed and asked for food. The Bible's fidelity in showing the unpleasant side of a person's character is illustrated here in David's lapse in faith and deception, both to the priest and later to Achish.

It is amazing how a man of faith can gradually become a man of fear and unbelief. If we get in a hurry and trust in men and our own plans, before long everything falls to pieces and we find ourselves

out of the place of God's blessing and protection. In later lessons we will see that David did learn to wait on the Lord and seek His will.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place" (Proverbs 27:8).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 13: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

MONEY YOUNG, JR.
BELINDA McCRUTER

HYMN FOR TODAY

WE'RE MARCHING TO ZION **by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748**

Should we sing psalms or hymns in our church services? This was the controversy stirring many congregations during the 17th and 18th centuries. Isaac Watts was the life-long champion of the "humanly composed" hymn while the majority of the English-speaking churches insisted on the traditional psalm settings. Tempers frequently flared, and some churches actually split in the heat of this decidedly unharmonious musical conflict. In some churches a compromise was reached. The psalm setting would be sung in the early part of the service with a hymn used at the close, during which time the parishioners could leave or simply refuse to sing.

Isaac Watts' "Come, We That Love the Lord" was no doubt written in part to refute his critics, who termed his hymns "Watts' Whims," as well as to provide some subtle barbs for those who refused to sing his hymns: "Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad." The hymn first appeared in Watts' *Hymns and Spiritual Songs of 1707* and was titled "Heavenly Joy on Earth."

Still today there exists a controversy within some evangelical congregations regarding the use of traditional versus contemporary sacred music. Although we may each have our own preference, cultural differences such as this should never be a cause for disrupting the unity of any group of believers. This epigram by Augustine, the early church theologian, is still worthy of our earnest consideration. "Let there be in the essentials, unity. In all non-essentials, liberty. In all things, charity."

*Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.*

*Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heav'nly King may speak their joys
abroad.*

*The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heav'nly fields, or walk the golden
streets.*

*Then let our songs abound and ev'ry tear be dry;
we're marching thru Immanuel's ground to fairer
worlds on high.*

Chorus:

*We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of
God.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

588 B.C.

JEHOIACHIN WAS FREED FROM PRISON.

Jehoiachin was freed from prison at approximately this date by the King of Babylon. He was allowed to eat with the King and allowed to change from his prison garments (II Kings 25:27-30).

Because the Bible says the King of Babylon spoke kindly to Jehoiachin, the word "kindly" is brought to my attention today. Dr. George W. Truett once said, "Be kind to everybody because everybody is having a tough time." Resolve to be kind to everybody today. No one needs your criticism or rudeness, but everyone needs your help.

1513

SOME THINK THAT THE DISCOVERY OF FLORIDA BY PONCE DE LEON WAS ON THIS DATE RATHER THAN THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED ONE.

1667

PARADISE LOST WAS PUBLISHED BY JOHN MILTON.

1881

THE BIRTHDAY OF WALTER WILSON.

Walter Wilson was a medical doctor from Kansas City, Missouri. God made of him one of America's most unique soul winners. He was in demand across the country and around the world as a Bible Conference speaker. His favorite verse is Psalm 27:4, "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple."

Walter Wilson left a precious orchid from the Word of God once when he said that Psalm 126:6, which says, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him," really means "He that goeth forth having a leaky seed basket..." Every Christian should have a leaky seed basket.

1958

KRUSCHEV BECAME PREMIER OF RUSSIA.

**ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

1861

BLACK DEMONSTRATORS IN CHARLESTON STAGED RIDE-INS on street cars. On May 1, the Charleston City Railway Company adopted a resolution guaranteeing the right of all persons to ride in streetcars.

1969

BLACK ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS FOUNDED at Boston meeting. Dr. C. Eric Lincoln,

professor of religion and sociology at Union Theological Seminary, was elected president of the organization.

1972

TWO SURVIVING SOLEDAD BROTHERS, FLEETA DUMGO AND JOHN CLUCHETTE, ACQUITTED BY AN ALL-WHITE JURY of charges that they killed a white guard at Soledad Prison in 1970. Third Soledad Brother, George Jackson, was killed in August, 1971, in alleged escape attempt.

A Christian Life:

CHARLES GRANDISON FINNEY

1792-1875

American evangelist and educator. Charles Finney was born at Warren, Connecticut, but two years later his family moved to upstate New York, where he received his early education in frontier schools. As a young man, he studied law and set up practice at Adams, New York.

While reading *Blackstone's Commentaries on Law*, he noted continuous references to the Holy Scriptures. Blackstone repeatedly mentioned the Bible as the highest authority. This moved Finney to buy a Bible, and he soon was reading it more than law.

The Word of God brought deep conviction to his soul, and on October 10, 1821, out in the woods, he was converted to Christ. He immediately began witnessing for Christ, and before long was conducting revival meetings. Finney used the apostolic practices of the New Testament and was soon filling the largest buildings available and keeping them filled.

The highlight of his evangelistic ministry was the "nine mighty years" of 1824 to 1832, during which he conducted powerful revival meetings all over the eastern cities of Gourenour, Rome, Utica, Auburn, Troy, Wilmington, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York. During his meeting in Rochester, New York, "the place was shaken to its foundations." Twelve hundred people united with the churches of Rochester Presbytery. All the leading lawyers, physicians, and businessmen were saved. Forty of the converts entered the ministry, and the whole character of the town was changed. As a result of that meeting, revivals broke out in 1,500 other towns and villages.

He was finally forced to discontinue his evangelistic ministry due to bad health, and, after many years as a revival preaching pastor in New York City, he became president of Oberlin College, where he lectured until his death.

Over 500,000 people responded to his public invitations to receive Christ. Finney was personal, homespun, dramatic, and forceful, and his revival lectures are still studied by Bible-believing preachers, teachers, and evangelists.



The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS:

THE NEW CONVERT'S RESPONSIBILITY

(Assignment 13)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV.com page.)

Be identified with his Lord in Baptism.

() Romans 6:4 (Acts 8:36; 16:33)

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Attend the Lord's house every Lord's day.

() Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Tell what great things the Lord hath done.

() Mark 5:19

Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Like Andrew, bring nearest kin to Jesus.

() John 1:41 (John 1:40, 42)

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Diligently study to meet new Master's approval.

() 2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.