

MARCH 30

Read 1 Samuel 26–27

CHAPTER 26

AND the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, *which is* before Jeshimon?

2 Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, *which is* before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

4 David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed.

5 ¶ And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched: and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him.

6. Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and

to Abishai the son of Zeruah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.

8 Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not *smite* him the second time.

9 And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

10 David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.

11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the

LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that *is* at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

12 So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw *it*, nor knew *it*, neither awaked: for they *were* all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.

13 ¶ Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space *being* between them:

14 And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who *art* thou *that* criest to the king?

15 And David said to Abner, *Art* not thou a *valiant* man? and who *is* like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.

16 This thing *is* not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye *are* worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear *is*, and the

cruse of water that *was* at his bolster.

17 And Saul knew David's voice, and said, *Is* this thy voice, my son David? And David said, *It is* my voice, my lord, O king.

18 And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil *is* in mine hand?

19 Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if *they be* the children of men, cursed *be* they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods.

20 Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

21 ¶ Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

22 And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and

let one of the young men come over and fetch it.

23 The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into *my* hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.

24 And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

25 Then Saul said to David, Blessed *be* thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great *things*, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

CHAPTER 27

AND David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

2 And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that *were* with him unto Achish, the son of Maach, king of Gath.

3 And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, *even* David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife.

4 And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him.

5 ¶ And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?

6 Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day.

7 And the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months.

8 ¶ And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those *nations were* of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt.

9 And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the

camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish.

10 And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites.

11 And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring *tid-*

ings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so *will be* his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines.

12 And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In chapter 25 David spares Saul's life a second time. It is difficult to understand why David returned to the wilderness of Ziph when he had experienced difficulty there before. He, like all men of clay, made mistakes!

Abishai was David's nephew and was a courageous warrior. David and Abishai entered Saul's camp by night. God had put a deep sleep upon the entire camp, so David and his nephew were not in danger. Abishai wanted to kill Saul, but David would not allow it. He again said he would not stretch forth his hand against the Lord's anointed. Instead, they took Saul's spear and a cruse of water.

David then went and stood on the top of a hill afar off and called to the people and to Abner. His message here to Saul was actually a plea for him to return to the Lord. In verse 18 David says, "Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? For what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?" If David had done wrong to Saul he wanted to get the matter settled. However, if he had not, then God would settle the matter for David. Note Saul's empty confession in verse 21. He says, "I have sinned...I have played the fool." But he still did not repent! man plays the fool when he runs ahead of the Lord; when he fails to obey completely; when he turns his back on his best friends; when he seeks guidance from the devil; and when he refuses to repent even when he knows he is wrong. Saul had done all these things, so he had indeed played the fool.

Chapter 27 deals with David's victories as he sought the mind of the Lord. Of course, he was not always walking in the will of the Lord, for it seems that his faith failed him when he went back to Gath to

live under the protection of the enemy.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe" (Proverbs 29:25).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 13: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 7.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

MARY M. WILSON

HYMN FOR TODAY

NOW THE DAY IS OVER

by Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Trusting God throughout the day allows us to rest peacefully at night. Fear and anxiety are the chief causes of the tension that leads to disturbed rest. And sound rest is an absolute necessity for the renewing of our bodies, minds, and emotions. Only a peaceful relationship with God and with others allows us this total renewal at the close of each day. We must learn to relax and release our cares and burdens to the Lord and then claim His promised rest.

Whenever there are those occasional times when sleep eludes us, it is important to center our thoughts on God, the Scriptures, and the loving concern of the Lord rather than upon the solving of life's many problems.

"Now the Day Is Over" was written by Sabine Baring-Gould (composer of "Onward, Christian Soldiers"). The author, a minister in the Anglican church, was recognized as one of England's most prolific writers of his time. Baring-Gould wrote this charming text

for the children of his parish at Horbury Bridge, near Wakefield, England. It was based on Proverbs 3:24: "When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet." The hymn first appeared in the *Church Times* on March 16, 1865. It is still a favorite hymn with children everywhere.

*Now the day is over, night is drawing nigh;
shadows of the evening steal across the sky.*

*Jesus, give the weary calm and sweet repose;
with Thy tend'rest blessing may mine eyelids close.*

*Thru the long night-watches may Thine angels spread
their white wings above me, watching round my bed.*

*When the morning wakens, then may I arise
pure and fresh and sinless in Thy holy eyes.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1867

THE DATE OF THE ALASKA PURCHASE.

Since our attention is turned toward Alaska, we should certainly pray for the work of the Gospel in this great state. Let us pray for the many Christians in this great state as they witness and seek to bring others to faith in Jesus Christ.

TOMORROW ENDS THE MONTH OF MARCH.

Are there things you had planned to do that you failed to do, kind deeds you should have done that you left undone, souls to whom you planned to witness who are still lost and without Christ? Take inventory today and complete the course that God had laid out for you in the month of March. Have you written the loved ones as often as you should? Have you told your love to dear ones as you ought? Today would be a good catch-up day, would it not?

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1869

FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT RATIFIED.

This amendment *supposedly* gave blacks the right to vote.

1923

ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, FOUNDED at Howard University in 1920, incorporated.

1941

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE PRESENTED ONE-HOUR PROGRAM over a national radio network and urged equal participation for blacks in national defense program.

A Christian Life:

GEORGE FOX
1624-1691

Founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers). George Fox was born in Drayton-in-the-Clay, Leicestershire, England, the son of Puritan parents. Little is known of his early life, apart from what he wrote in his journal: “In my very young years, I had a gravity and stayedness of mind and spirit not usual in young children. Insomuch that, when I saw old men behave lightly and wantonly toward each other, I had a dislike thereof raise in my heart, and I said within myself, ‘If ever I come to be a man, surely I shall not do so, nor be so wanton.’”

At the age of 19, he gained deep, personal assurance of his salvation and began to travel as an itinerant preacher, seeking a return to the simple practices of the New Testament. He abhorred technical theology, and preached a faith borne of experience, freshly fed and guided by the immediate presence of the Holy Spirit.

Fox was persecuted almost daily, yet his power of endurance was phenomenal. He was beaten with dogwhips, knocked down with fists and stones, brutally struck with pikestaves, hard beset by mobs, incarcerated eight times in the pestilential jails, prisons, castles and dungeons—yet he went straightforward with his mission as though he had discovered some fresh courage which made him impervious to man’s inhumanity.

He undertook as far as possible to let the new life in Christ take its own free course of development in his ministry. He shunned rigid forms and static systems, and for that reason he refused to head a new sect or to start a new denomination, or to begin a new church. He would not build an organization of any kind. His followers at first called themselves “Children of the Light,” and later adopted the name “The Society (or Fellowship) of Friends.”

Fox preached and traveled for 40 years throughout England, Scotland, Holland, and America. His life demonstrated the truth of his famous saying, “One man raised by God’s power to stand and live in the same spirit the apostle and prophets were in, can shake the country for ten miles around.”



The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC:

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.