

In Search of a King 1-2 SAMUEL

"Now it came about after the death of Saul..."

2 Samuel 1:1-27

Tell it Not in Gath

Now it came about after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, that David remained two days in Ziklag. ² On the third day, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul, with his clothes torn and dust on his head. And it came about when he came to David that he fell to the ground and prostrated himself. ³ Then David said to him, "From where do you come?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." ⁴ David said to him, "How did things go? Please tell me." And he said, "The people have fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also." ⁵ So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"

⁶ The young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and behold, Saul was leaning on his spear. And behold, the chariots and the horsemen pursued him closely. ⁷ When he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I said, 'Here I am.' ⁸ He said to me, 'Who are you?' And I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Please stand beside me and kill me, for agony has seized me because my life still lingers in me.' ¹⁰ So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown which was on his head and the bracelet which was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."

¹¹ Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so also *did* all the men who *were* with him. ¹² They mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan and for the people of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. ¹³ David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite." ¹⁴ Then David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" ¹⁵ And David called one of the young men and said, "Go, cut him down." So he struck him and he died. ¹⁶ David said to him, "Your blood is on your head, for your mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.'"

“Tell it Not in Gath”

1. David's Uncompromising Faithfulness

- David was committed to God's word and the upholding of justice, not his own interest
- David did not seize the throne but waited on the Lord's promise

“Tell it Not in Gath”

- *David's uncompromising faithfulness was rooted in his firm hold on God's promise and character*

“Tell it Not in Gath”

2. David's Genuine Grief

¹⁷ Then David chanted with this lament over Saul and Jonathan his son, ¹⁸ and he told *them* to teach the sons of Judah *the song of the bow*; behold, it is written in the book of Jashar.

¹⁹ “Your beauty, O Israel, is slain on your high places!
How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰ “Tell it not in Gath,
Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon,
Or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice,
The daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.

²¹ “O mountains of Gilboa,
Let not dew or rain be on you, nor fields of offerings;
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.

²² “From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty,
The bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
And the sword of Saul did not return empty.

²³ “Saul and Jonathan, beloved and pleasant in their life,
And in their death they were not parted;
They were swifter than eagles,
They were stronger than lions.

²⁴ “O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
Who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet,
Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

²⁵ “How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!
Jonathan is slain on your high places.

²⁶ “I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
You have been very pleasant to me.
Your love to me was more wonderful
Than the love of women.

²⁷ “How the mighty have fallen,
And the weapons of war perished!”

“Tell it Not in Gath”

2. David's Genuine Grief

- (1) *thoughtful grief* – carefully constructed words and images as a vehicle for expressing ongoing grief (“lament”)

“Tell it Not in Gath”

2. David's Genuine Grief

- (2) *theological grief* – a grief over the disgrace of God's name and His people amongst God's enemies

“Tell it Not in Gath”

2. David's Genuine Grief

- (3) *personal grief* – David was distressed over the death of Saul, and especially the death of Jonathan

“Tell it Not in Gath”

2. David's Genuine Grief

- (4) *gracious grief* – David celebrated what was truly commendable in Saul's life with no hint of bitterness or resentment

How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?

How long will You hide Your face from me?

²How long shall I take counsel in my soul,

Having sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

³Consider *and* answer me, O LORD my God;

Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the *sleep of death*,

⁴And my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,”

And my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.

**⁵ But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
⁶ I will sing to the LORD,
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.**

(Psalm 13:1-6)