

NO MORE CRUTCHES!

1 Sam.18:6-16; 1 Samuel 21:10-15

When God sees His children leaning on everyone and everything but Him; we can count it; we can be sure, He will teach us the lessons we need so that we might learn to lean on Him alone. This principle was worked out in the life of King David.

David Lost His Position

Read 1 Sam. 19:9-10. His father-in-law wanted to kill him. This is the second time Saul wants to harm David. He was jealous of David. He outshined Saul. People attributed more success to David than Saul. Saul was terribly afraid of David. It is often the very people who are to get us that are afraid of us.

The Captain of Israel's army, the greatest battlefield hero in the nation's history, has become a fugitive from justice. Never again will he serve in Saul's army.

David Lost His Popularity

As one removed from the public eye, David was soon relegated to memory. People probably assumed that Saul would be successful in his attempts to take David's life. Still another crutch removed.

David Lost His People

Every person upon whom David leaned in his life was taken away.

- Michal Was Removed – 1 Sam. 19:11-17
- Jonathan Was Removed – 1 Sam. 20:41-42
- Samuel Was Removed – 1 Sam. 19:18- 20:1

David Lost His Pride (Self-Respect)

Read 1 Sam. 21:10-15. Here, the last crutch is torn away and David reaches the lowest point in his life.

He goes into the palace of King Achish, the king of the Philistines, to see if this king will give him shelter. Out of all the places! Imagine, the champion of the armies of Israel runs to the palace of the enemy to try and find a friend!

David is filled with fear that the Philistines will retaliate for his slaying of Goliath, so he pretends to be a raving lunatic, so that he might escape from these people too. Here he is, the mighty man who killed the great giant; and he is scratching on the gates and drooling on his beard like a mad man!

David has lost his self-respect. Oh, how the mighty are fallen! He has nothing left! He has nothing and no one on whom he can lean. He is alone, afraid and alienated. God has brought David from the very top to the very bottom of life. Why?

God did this to David so that David would learn to lean on the Lord and not on all the other crutches that had been constructed in his life!

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms (Deut. 33:27).

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Soli Deo Gloria

**With much indebtedness to Alan Carr*