

Abishai crept softly down the hillside and found everyone in Saul's camp asleep, and the king himself lying in the middle, with a jar of water at his head and his spear stuck in the ground by his pillow.

Not a man stirred, and Abishai whispered to David, "Surely God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day! Let me now run him through with the spear, and I will not have to strike twice."

But David answered, "No! Let him die in sickness or battle; but God forbid that I should stretch forth my hand against the Lord's anointed. Let us seize his spear and water jug and be gone."

So David took the king's spear and pitcher and crept silently away without waking or disturbing anyone.

Then David and Abishai climbed down the valley and up the opposite hillside and waited for morning.

At daybreak David shouted across to Abner, "Why have you not kept better watch over the king, your master? If he wants his spear bid him send over for it to me."

Soon it was known through all the camp how David had spared the king's life. And Saul came to David saying, "I have sinned and behaved most foolishly. Return home, if you will, and may God prosper you. I will do you no more harm."

And David answered, "As I have spared your life this day, so may the Lord spare my life and deliver me out of the hand of all my enemies."

Saul was so touched by David's kind and forgiving spirit, that he spoke gentle and peaceable words in parting from him.

So David went on his way and Saul returned to his palace.

Questions on the Lesson

1. What did Saul do when he heard that David had fled? 2. How many men did he take with him? 3. Where did they seek for David? 4. Where did Saul and his men lie down to sleep? 5. What did David plan to do? 6. Who went with him? 7. How did they find Saul and his soldiers? 8. What did Abishai want to do? 9. Why would David not kill Saul? 10. What did he take from him? 11. What did Saul say when he

knew that David had spared his life? 12. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Hymn

Let grace our selfishness expel,
Our earthliness refine,
And kindness in our bosoms dwell,
As free and true as Thine. Amen.
—Hymn 285, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—43. What would have happened to us if Jesus had not died for us? If Jesus had not died for us, we all would have been lost.

SHORTER CATECHISM—92. What is a sacrament? A. A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

It was in a jar or cruse like this that travellers in Eastern lands carried water to drink on their journeys. David's gentle, forgiving spirit was to Saul like a drink of



clear, cold water on a hot summer day. It cooled the king's anger and caused him to have more kindly feelings towards David. Shall we not each try to act as David did when any one does us harm? There is no other way so sure to take away all their hatred towards us and make them our true and loving friends.

I Have Learned To-day
THAT GOD TELLS ME TO FORGIVE