

Lesson IX.

DAVID SPARES SAUL

August 30, 1903

1 Sam. 26 : 5-12, 21-25. Study 1 Sam. 26 : 1-25—Memory Verse, 21.

Golden Text—Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.—Luke 6 : 27.

5 And Da'vid arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched : and Da'vid beheld the place where Saul lay, and Ab'ner 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 Da'vid and said to Ahim'elech the Hitt'ite, and to Abi'shai the son of Zeru'iah, brother to Jo'ab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abi'shai said, I will go down with thee.

7 So Da'vid and Abi'shai 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 Ab'ner and the people lay round about him.

8 Then said Abi'shai to Da'vid, 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 Da'vid said to Abi'shai, Destroy him not : for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?

10 Da'vid 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 Da'vid 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.

21 Then said Saul, I have sinned : return, my son Da'vid : 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 Da'vid 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 Da'vid, Blessed *be* thou, my son Da'vid : thou shalt both do great *things*, and also shalt still prevail. So Da'vid went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In spite of all that Jonathan could do to save his friend from the wrath of King Saul, David was obliged to flee for his life into the wilderness.

Hearing where he was hidden, Saul in his anger took with him three thousand men and went to seek him out.

When David and his few followers heard that Saul was upon them, they hid themselves all day in a wood, and when night

came on, Saul's soldiers were still looking for him.

At last, when the king and his men and Abner, the chief captain, lay down in an open place to sleep, David came out, and seeing where Saul lay he said to his men, "Who will go with me into the camp of Israel?" And Abishai, David's nephew, said, "I will go."

So in the middle of the night David and