

century Bedouins have pitched a tent of their own, so like Saul's that it seems a part of the story's ancient setting. We stand on a downward sloping hillside and look across a narrow valley to another height, where ledges of bare, gray limestone push out through the hill's thin coat of soil. On the slope directly before us a party of Bedouins are encamped. They have set up six or eight poles and stretched over them a long strip of heavy, dark colored cloth, held in place by tightly drawn ropes of twisted leather which are "pegged" by anchoring with heavy stones. We can plainly see how

the tent cover was made by sewing together two narrow pieces of coarse goats' hair canvas. Some women of the family (perhaps one of whom we have a glimpse now inside the tent) spun the yarn and wove it with her own hands. It is the same kind of shelter as that in which Saul slept when he and his company pitched their tents in this lonely hill-country.

You can see for yourself the modern tent and its owners, by using a stereograph entitled, *A Bedouin Camp in the Wilderness Where Saul Pursued David*.

THE LESSON APPLIED

1. God often educates us through difficulty. David was leading the life of an exile. It was hardly a pleasant life, not the life a man would be likely to willingly choose for himself. In addition to the physical hardships, there was the fact that he had been chosen out by Saul for revenge, by Saul whom he himself had helped in the conflict with the Philistines. It certainly looked as if God had forsaken David. And yet it was Saul whom God had forsaken. Saul, with his many advantages, had not learned God's lessons. But difficulty was teaching David,—teaching him military tactics, teaching him patience, teaching him to understand and sympathize with his future subjects. And when God wishes to prepare us for some great task He often gives us hard training. When we are tempted to cry out against it, let us remember that.

2. Two heads are better than one. Possibly David could have accomplished his mission to the camp of Saul had he gone all by himself. But he felt the need of companionship during his night expedition. And it was certainly a good thing for Abishai that he had David with him to restrain him from a rash act. Two heads are better than one in the life of Christian service. That is doubtless why Jesus sent out His disciples two by two to preach the gospel when He was training them for the larger work which awaited them. They would be able to give each other mutual support and encouragement. The cautious disciple would help the impetuous one. The cheerful disciple would help the one who was inclined to be gloomy. We help our friends

and we help ourselves when we persuade them to join us in Christian service.

3. David was willing to bide his time. He had faith to believe that in God's good time Saul would be removed from the throne of Israel, and so he restrained the impetuous desire of Abishai. When the Battle of the Plains of Abraham was being fought, Wolfe gave orders that the British were not to fire until he gave the order. It was hard work for the British soldiers to wait, harder work than to fight. But they stood there patiently while the French advanced against them, and one after another fell before the fire to which they were not allowed to reply, yet "bayonet after bayonet would suddenly flash out of the line and fall forward, as the stricken redcoat, standing there with shouldered arms, quivered and sank to the ground." Wolfe carefully watched the advance of the enemy, until he came within a hundred paces, within seventy-five, within fifty, within forty. Then the order was given, the British began their volleys, and soon the French were in retreat. The long, patient waiting was rewarded with final victory. So must we, as Christians, learn how to wait patiently, to bide our time. Victory will be all the sweeter when it comes.

4. One of the highest tests of character is the readiness to forgive. In his forgiveness, David proved himself an infinitely better man than Saul. Once General Robert E. Lee spoke in the highest terms to President Jefferson Davis concerning a certain officer. Another officer who was standing by heard