

1 Samuel 26 : 5-16. Study 1 Samuel, ch. 26—Memory Verses, 11, 12.

Golden Text—Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you.—Luke 6 : 27 (Rev. Ver.).



on the top of an hill afar off ; a great space *being* between them :

14 And Da'vid cried to the people, and to Ab'ner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Ab'ner ? Then Ab'ner answered and said, Who *art* thou that criest to the king ?

15 And Da'vid said to Ab'ner, *Art* not thou a *valiant* man ? and who is like to thee in Is'rael ? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king ? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.

16 This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Two men were creeping down, down over the rocks. One was David and the other was his trusty captain. They were going by night to the camp of King Saul's great army.

David had gone away to live amongst the hills to be safe from Saul who still wished to kill him. There David had gathered a band of brave men about him. But Saul, with an army, had followed him, and was seeking to take away his life. David and his captain were now going down secretly to Saul's camp.

When they reached Saul's army they saw the heavy war chariots standing in a circle. They saw the soldiers, with Abner their captain, lying fast asleep round about the king. King Saul lay with his long spear stuck in the ground and a cruse or jar of water beside him. There was no sound. Every one was asleep.

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 Hit'tite, and to Ab'ishai the son of Zerui'ah, brother to Jo'ab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp ? And Ab'ishai said, I will go down with thee.

7 So Da'vid and Ab'ishai 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 Ab'ishai 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 Ab'ishai, 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.

13 Then Da'vid went over to the other side, and stood

"Let me take his spear and slay him," whispered David's captain.

What would David do ? Would he allow the king to be killed ? Now was his chance. If Saul were dead, David's own life would be safe, and there would be nothing to prevent his becoming king. Would he permit the wicked deed to be done ?

Then David's answer came : " No ! The Lord will punish him for his sins. I, David, will never lift my hand against the Lord's anointed." David remembered that God had set Saul apart as king by having Samuel anoint him with oil. It was God alone, therefore, who had the right to remove Saul from being king, and David would not do any thing against him. Then he added, "But let us take his spear and cruse and go."

So David took the spear and cruse and went over to another high hill and began to