

1Samuel 17:57-18:5,10-16  
God is with us in Danger  
Nunawading and Waverley, 20-6-21

Dear friends in Christ,

Can you think of a time when your life was in peril? I have mentioned the time I was nearly run over when I stepped in front of a car, as a young boy. Maybe it was serious fall, nearly being killed by some machinery, or coming close to being drowned. David was in such a situation. Because Saul was jealous of him and because his own son Jonathan had made an agreement or **covenant** to step aside and let David be king, Saul wanted to kill him. On two occasions, in a fit of madness, he hurled a spear at him, hoping to **pin him to the wall**. Eventually, David became a fugitive; Saul was pursuing him with his soldiers, hoping to capture him and execute him.

The good news is here in the word: **God was with David**. The Lord enabled him to succeed, escaping from Saul. He went on many campaigns and won victory after victory against the Philistines who were continually raiding the country, causing people to starve. He started as a captain and eventually became the supreme commander of the army. **He was well respected by Israel's military leaders and the people as well.**

But it was not as easy and simple as it sounds. David had to face the tall, powerful and experienced Goliath when only a teenager. His weapon was a sling and five smooth stones while Goliath was in armour, with shield, sword and spear. David's life was in peril; it was his trust in the Lord that was the decisive thing. This is what he said: **You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.** In danger, faith is the key.

When your life is threatened, fear is natural but Jesus asked us not to be afraid but to **have faith**. Let him speak into your life and not the voices of fear you hear in your mind. The presence of God is with us. The Lord Jesus is here in Holy Communion, to keep us strong and close to him. Luther teaches us about the saving gifts of the Lord's Supper: 'Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation'. Also, Jesus is within us through the Spirit and speaking to us via his word. It is a comfort

for us that God shared in our human life and therefore understands our fears. Christ was threatened and plotted against. Once, the people of his own town tried to **throw him off a cliff**. On another occasion, **the boat he was in was being swamped** and he could have drowned. He was arrested and condemned by Pilate, facing torture and death but he trusted his Father. In each situation, he triumphed in the end. Now, by his resurrection, he gives this victory over fear to each of us.

Will you be afraid again if someone is trying to ruin your life or you face financial loss? If you think life is finished, will you trust in the saving grace of your heavenly Father?

We should never be alone with our fears, if threatened by someone or being cyber-bullied. David had Jonathan, **who loved him as his own life**. Saul prevented David from seeing his family when he took him into service but the Lord provided a loyal friend. Speak up about those things you think will crush you. Professional people can help you but also seek spiritual help. It is vital someone is praying for you, that the church knows what is going on and can support you. Never, never be alone with your fear. God is with you through your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Finally, avoid retaliation. David could have taken revenge on Saul when the king entered a cave to relieve himself whilst pursuing David but not knowing that David and his men were hiding at the back in the darkness. It would have been easy for David to dispatch Saul but he refrained because he knew that the Lord was at work in the dangers he faced. This is indicated by the word: **the Lord gave Saul an evil spirit of jealousy**. The Lord is not the author of evil. Unfortunately, Saul gave himself over to Satan and hatred consumed him. Rather, this expression means that the Lord's higher plan was operating in David's life. It comes back to trust, doesn't it? Put your life, your everyday and your future into the Lord's hands. God is with us in times of danger.