

Day 30 – Mar. 10

Fear makes us do terrible and stupid things. Bob Stromberg used to illustrate this with a balloon. He would take the balloon and begin to blow it up. And for the next few minutes, he would blow it up large, then don goggles, then blow it up more, then don earcoverings, then blow it up more and begin walking around the audience. It was an over-inflatable balloon, one made to be blown up much larger than normal. Finally, the balloon would pop with a bang, and he would make his point. As he walked around the audience, people near the balloon would do really crazy things, from scrunching up their face to hiding behind friends, and Bob would point out the behavior and the fact that it all came from fear.

Saul behaves like a madman, and it all comes from fear. This is attributed to David's success, to the "tormenting spirit from the LORD", and jealousy, but ultimately, it comes from fear. Saul is afraid that David is better than he, that God loves David more than he, that the people will turn on him in favor of David, and even that David will take his crown. And this fear leads him to try to kill David. First, by putting him in the thick of battle (reminds us that David uses this same tactic with Uriah, Bathsheba's husband), then by commanding his assassination, and finally by trying to kill David himself. Yet God has plans for David and David avoids the death sentence each and every time.

When you are afraid, what kinds of crazy things do you do? When health or financial hardships hit, how do you react? Maybe you don't try to kill people, but do you find your thinking shifting? Your faith? Do you become more snippy, more easily angered? Often it's easy to tell when someone is afraid by their rash behaviors.

But Saul could have turned to God in his fear and found comfort. God the Ever-Forgiving would have helped Saul if Saul earnestly returned. And God can help you in your fear, too. When things feel out of control, turn to God to find your peace and comfort. He will remind you of His faithfulness, give you a better perspective on the problem, and walk with you through it so you don't have to be alone. This is God's promise to us. When you are afraid, turn to Him, and you will find peace.