

## OF HARPS AND HEARTS

David loved Saul. When still a young man, he was invited to come live in the King's Palace. As he was quite talented at playing the harp, he was selected to come and soothe the frustrations of a king he greatly admired. Little did he know when he took the job that being a harpist could be a very dangerous effort. You see, the old king had some heart troubles. Not the kind you take blood pressure medicine for, but the other kind. Saul was struggling with faithfulness to God. He had made some bad decisions in the past, and his relationship with the Lord could be described as strained at best. Though God had been with him before, his sin caused God to turn his back on him. Though no one knew this, especially David, he came each day to play for the king in hopes of soothing the heart of his master. On a couple of occasions Saul's evil imagination had gotten the best of him so much that he threw his spear at David, thinking he could pin him to the wall. Though David knew his life was in danger, his love for God, for Israel, and for Saul his king, made David endure the danger in hopes of making a difference.

Christian service is much this way. When a group comes together from all different backgrounds, as in a church setting, each person comes with a different set of problems. Some of their problems are slight, and some are very severe. Some Christians have such deep sin problems that need to be addressed. These are very seldom known to the rest. Yet, as was with David, there is such a sense of love for God, for Christ, and His kingdom, that people just want to do what they can to help.

Though we would like to think that people at church are all so good and genuine that they would never have a serious heart problem, in reality Christians know that Satan seeks to have his way with all. He is far more successful than we would care to admit, 1 Peter 5:8. People struggle, like old king Saul. Because of the comfort of Scripture, within us all is a common belief that God is stronger than Satan. Read Philippians 4:13 and 1 John 4:4-6. We want to believe that everyone in a church setting is looking to God for strength to overcome the devil's influence and succeed. If the resurrection of Christ teaches us anything, it teaches us that with God we can overcome anything. So, we serve! We might get slapped in the face, stabbed in the back, lied to, stolen from, and hated. But when we think about how Christ endured all things that He might make a difference, we get this feeling—this hope, that with His help we can do it too. So we continue to serve!

There are jobs that need to be done. Some jobs are easier than others. Some are in areas we have strengths, but some demand a lot more effort and sacrifice. Some have more visible results receiving more glory than others, yet all work together to bring about a united and blessed result; God is glorified, and people are helped. This is Christian service!

1 Samuel is a wonderful book. It tells us about a young boy who would later become a great king. David had a great heart for God. He was known as the man after God's own heart. It was because of his love for God and His

kingdom that he served. He was not perfect, but he loved God. So he gave of himself, his time, his life!

You too belong to a great kingdom! As with Saul, there are people who make service very difficult. However, belief that the cause is greater and the reward priceless, we look beyond the difficult to capture the reward in our hearts. So, we serve as we press toward the mark of the upward call of God.

Can you help make a difference?

—Scott