

Introduction: From the beginning, all people, everywhere, have asked themselves the question: what am I doing here? They are not asking about a specific place, but a much more important question, namely: does my life have a meaning or purpose?

*** History has shown that to get an answer to this question people must get out of, and over, themselves. And, it is also important to have the right mental framework or worldview. Do we believe in objective truth? And, if so, are we willing to seek this truth regardless of the consequences to our own personal desires? *** The Baltimore Catechism answers the sixth question with these words: God made us to know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him forever in heaven. So, life is about knowing God created us; so much for the 'self-made' man! Then, we need to love Him and serve Him, not ourselves and our desires. The apostle Paul said: we are His workmanship created IN Christ Jesus to do good works prepared before for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). Jesus said: the one desiring to be great will be the servant of all (Mark 10:43). This is simple enough for children to understand, but goes 'against the grain' of human nature (Matthew 18:1-4). *** In our passages this morning, when Saul was tormented by an evil spirit, his servants advised him to call David to play music to give him relief. Whenever needed, David would serve Saul by knowing the right notes to pluck on the harp thereby ministering relief to king Saul.

David serves the king with his music

Many years later, David composed a song to the greatness of God, and His wonderful works and goodness, which lead His people to joy over His righteousness and love. *** David learned that by serving God through serving others, he became a citizen of King God so he praised His wonders with His people, so, they enjoyed God's righteous love. *** Let's now see how the details of our passages work together to help us understand: what are WE doing here?

I. When an evil spirit torments Saul, he sends for Jesse's son, David, to play an instrument to make him well;

Saul loves him and is refreshed when David's play causes the spirit to depart. (*1 Samuel 16:14-23*)

A. King Saul is tormented by an evil spirit, his servants advise him to send for Jesse's son, whose knowledge in playing a stringed instrument will make Saul well. (*Verses 14-18*)

1. The Spirit of the Covenant God departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the Covenant God terrified him; then, Saul's servants said to him: Behold, please! an evil spirit from God (is) terrifying thee. (*Verses 14-15*)

Spirit of Yahweh: Because of Saul's doubled-down rebellion against Yahweh, and His ways, Yahweh's Spirit was taken from him. Did this move David to write after committing adultery and murder:

Thou must not take Thy Holy Spirit from me (Psalm 51:11)?

Evil spirit from Yahweh: So Yahweh terrified Saul with an evil spirit. This should startle us! It is worth noting that Saul's servants discerned this spiritual truth, but not Saul. His heart was hard.

2. Please speak, our lord, (to) thy servants before thee, they will seek a man knowing (well in) playing the harp; and when is upon thee the evil spirit of God, to play with his hand and thou (be) well. (*Verse 16*)

Seek musician: Saul's servants advise him to seek a musician with great (musical) knowledge to pluck a stringed instrument (harp) in order to make music so Saul is made well from the evil spirit.

3. Then Saul said to his servants: Y'all must see for (provide) me a man being made good to play, and bring him to me. (*Verse 17*)

Saul takes servants advice: The word 'provide' comes from the Latin 'before see'. So Saul is saying his servants are to seek to 'see' a man who can do for him what he needs before bringing him to Saul.

4. Then one of the young men answered: Behold! I have seen (already) a son of Jesse of Bethlehem, a man knowing (well in) playing, man of valor, man of war, being understanding of words, of handsome form, and Yahweh (is) with him. (*Verse 18*)

Description of David: David has five qualities Saul needs: he knows how to play the harp well, he has strong character, he is a warrior, he has a good understanding of words (proven by the words of the Psalms he wrote), and the 'form' of him (how he is physically put together) is handsome. All of this is because of how Yahweh, who is with him, made him.

David's music will make well: So the music of the humble shepherd David will give relief to king Saul when he is terrified by the evil spirit!

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Application: May this motivate us to be diligent in our gifts because we never know when God may call us to minister to people in high positions.

B. Jesse sends David to Saul with gifts, Saul loves David and makes him his armor-bearer; and, Saul is refreshed when David's playing drives away the spirit. (*Verses 19-23*)

1. Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and he said: Thou must send to me David, thy son, who is with the flock of sheep. (*Verse 19*)

Saul sends to Jesse: Through his messengers, Saul commands Jesse to send his shepherd son David to him. As king, he had the right to do this per Samuel's warning (1 Samuel 8:10-18).

2. Then Jesse took a donkey (with) bread (on him) and a bottle of wine, and one young female goat, and sent (them) by the hand of his son, David, to Saul. (*Verse 20*)

Jesse sends gift: Jesse takes it on himself to graciously send more than his son to king Saul.

3. Then David came to Saul and he entered before him; and, Saul loved him greatly and he became his armor-bearer; then Saul sent to Jesse: will thou please let stand before me David because he has found favor (grace) in my sight. (Verses 21-22)

Saul loves David: Saul sees something in David that creates in his heart a love for David.

David stands in favor: We were told David is a well-proportioned warrior of great character in addition to being a great musician. Saul responds to this quality in David with favor by making David his personal armor-bearer.

4. And when (it was) upon Saul, the spirit of God, David took the harp and played it with his hand; and, he was refreshed and well, and (the) evil spirit departed from upon him. (Verse 23)

Saul refreshed from evil: When David used one of the five qualities he received from Yahweh's Spirit with him to pluck the strings of the harp (a guitar-like instrument) with his hand (fingers), the evil spirit from God was driven away from Saul. This is the spiritual ministry of serving people by God's grace.

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Application: We must use the truth this story shows us to always seek God so His Spirit will be in us so our ministry for Him to others will be effective as God mightily works in us.

Testimony: Every Sunday for twenty years my brother Ray prayed for God to be with me for worship.

II. David sings praises to God, his great King, for His greatness, glory and wonderful works; then he says people will shout for joy for His goodness, righteousness and love. (Psalm 145:1-8)

- A. David praises God as his great King whose greatness is beyond fully knowing, His glory and wonderful works will be passed on to future generations. (Verses 1-5)

1. {Praise (song) to David} I will exalt Thee my God the King / I will bless Thy Name until eternity // Every day I will bless Thee / and I will praise Thy Name until eternity. (Verses 1-2)

Personal praise to God: With both repetition and variation, David pledges to lift on high the Name of His God and King with blessing and praise until eternity. The word 'until' has the meaning of: continually without ceasing.

2. Great (is) Yahweh and to be praised greatly / and of His greatness (is) no (way to fully) search (it). (Verse 3)

Greatness: David's inspired words indicate the full greatness of God is beyond knowing by people.

Any search for a full knowledge of God will always come up short!

3. Generation to generation they will commend Thy works / and Thy mighty deeds they will declare. (Verse 4)

Generations: Up until now, David was praising his Covenant God as one man. Now he expands the commendation of God's mighty works and deeds to a full generation declaring to the following generation with a plural subject. Now, a multitude unites in praise.

4. (On) the glorious splendor of Thy majesty / and of Thy (deeds) being made wonderful, I will meditate. (Verse 5)

David meditates: This suggests David takes time to get alone with his Covenant God to meditate (ponder to himself) about his God's majestic being that results in Him doing wonderful deeds.

Application: Let us learn from these inspired words to David to take time alone with God to let Him overwhelm us with His wonderfully great power, and then when we are filled by God, we will join with our brothers and sisters to testify what He has done for us as His family.

- B. People will speak of His fearsome greatness and abundant goodness, and they will shout joyfully about His righteousness and gracious, strong love. (Verses 6-8)

1. (Of) the strength of Thy being feared (deeds), they will speak / and Thy greatness, they will declare // The memory of the multitude of Thy goodness, they will pour out / and (of) Thy righteousness, they will shout joyfully in singing. (Verses 6-7)

People testify together: All this generation of God's family will testify together about the to be feared deeds of their Covenant God, done in His righteousness. Yahweh is to be praised because He is both great and good.

Yahweh is praised for His greatness and goodness

Close with shouts: All this prompts them to sing with shouts that ring out as loud as the Liberty Bell!

2. Gracious and compassionate (is) Yahweh / slow to anger and great in steadfast love. (Verse 8)

Steadfast love: Yahweh's steadfast love helped Jeremiah when he lamented the total destruction of Jerusalem and all but a miniscule remnant of its people. When he recalled in his heart that the steadfast love and compassion of Yahweh is always renewed, he had hope (Lamentations 3:21-23).

Application: We must encourage each other in the wonderful fearsome power of God so we do His good works, and in His strong life-transforming love, so we will speak the good news of Jesus to the next desperate, needy generation.

Conclusion: When an evil spirit torments Saul, he sends for Jesse's son, David, to play the harp to make him well. Saul loves David and is refreshed when his service ministry of playing the harp causes the spirit to depart from Saul.

David sings praises to God, his great King, for His greatness, glory and wonderful works.

Then, he declares people will shout for joy for God's goodness, righteousness and steadfast love.

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