

While You Were Sleeping

1 Samuel 26

by Don Falkos

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Saul went again to hunt David. One night David and Abishai went right into Saul's camp. They found the king asleep with Abner and his soldiers around him. The Lord had put them all into a deep sleep.

Abishai whispered to David, "If you let me, I will kill your enemy with a single thrust of my spear."

"No!" said David, "Don't kill him. He is the Lord's anointed one? He will die someday, but God forbid that I should be responsible for his death."

David took Saul's spear and water jug. He and Abishai left the camp without being seen and climbed the hill opposite. Then David shouted, "Wake up, Abner! Listen to me! You think you're such a great warrior. But you and your men deserve to die. You failed to protect the king. While you were sleeping someone came to kill him. Look around! Where is the king's spear and the jug of water that was beside his head?"

Saul recognized David's voice, "Is that you, David?"

"Yes, my lord the king. Why are you chasing me? What have I done?"

Saul confessed, "I have sinned. Come back home, my son, and I will no longer try to harm you."

"Here is your spear, my king. Send someone over to get it. The Lord placed you in my power, but I would never kill the Lord's anointed one. As I have valued your life today, may the Lord value my life and deliver me from all my troubles."

Saul replied, "Bless you, my son. You will do great things."

Then David went away, and Saul returned home.