

Episode 3: The Middle Path

This episode focuses a lot on Ishvi, the son of Saul. Ishvi is mentioned one time in the bible when he is stated as one of Saul's sons, but he does not have a big role in scripture. Keep this in mind as you watch the show since none of what is portrayed regarding his character is from the bible.

Ishvi talks to Saul and tells him all about his escape from exile only to be taken by a group of radical men who tried to break him. He also fesses up to being crowned king when he and Ahinoam thought Saul was dead. Then he takes an even further step in maturity and tells Saul he wants to right his wrong, follow the law of Moses and marry Dinah from the tribe of Dan as he should have from the beginning. I don't know about you, but I am proud of the better decisions Ishvi is making. It looks like his suffering resulted in endurance and character. Read the following verse and reflect on how you may have seen this in your life.

Romans 5:3-4 (ESV) – *3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.*

Since Ishvi is willing to marry Dinah, Jonathan, David and Ishvi head to the tribe of Dan to talk to her father and take Dinah as his wife. The trip doesn't go great. At first, Dinah's father does not want to give his daughter over to Ishvi. Dinah ends up saving Ishvi's life from a wild boar attack. Ishvi apologizes to Dinah for his refusal to marry her before. They come to agreement and Dinah will marry Ishvi so they head back to the kingdom, but get attacked along the way at the gate of Dan.

While we see Ishvi grow in his maturity and make better decisions, the same cannot be said for his mother. She is in full fix-it mode. She gets rid of the witch that she brought in to help cure Saul of his tormenting spirit. She is approached by Saul for not telling him about crowning Ishvi king while he was away fighting in the battle. She has really angered Saul and he does not want her to go on the upcoming trip to the tabernacle. As none of this is in scripture it paints a picture of sin and consequences when lying and deceit is in a relationship.

Did you catch when David was training with Jonathan that a man named Uriah introduced himself to David? You have probably heard this name before; he is the husband of Bathsheba. He is mentioned in 2 Samuel 11:2-17

Have you ever lost someone's trust? What did you do to make it right? If you find yourself in a situation where you haven't made it right, what can you do now to reconcile that relationship?

As David and Jonathan train together, they start to become closer friends. Jonathan helps him learn to fight and encourages him in his leadership skills and sword fighting abilities. What do you notice from the scripture below?

1 Samuel 18:1 (ESV) – *As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.*

Another person who comes clean is Dinah. She admits that Ishvi never did sleep with her, her father just assumed it happened and wouldn't believe her when she said they did not sleep together. It was part of his plot to advance his tribe and marry off his daughter of whom he was not very fond. I was surprised, but Ishvi didn't take the easy way out. He could have said, okay I have no obligation then to marry you, but instead he gives the relationship a chance. He said Dinah intrigues him and would like to continue a relationship with her.

David talks to Saul and asks him for time. He wants time to prove himself and the family to come to terms with Saul's decision. Do you see wisdom in this request? What attribute is David displaying?

This show loves to end with a cliff-hanger and/ twist; Adriel the Judah leader approaches Saul and says he knows where Samuel is and who he anointed. We will have to pick up in the next episode to find out what happens next!

Bible Reference

Michal and David talk to one another after the big announcement that David is to marry Merab. David talks about how he is reading about Joseph and it gives him hope. Read the scripture reference below:

Genesis 50:20 (ESV) – *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*

David was upset and he turned to scripture for comfort. Do you find yourself doing the same thing? God is the ultimate comforter, turn to him and his word for encouragement when you are suffering, feel alone and need guidance.

DID YOU KNOW??

Joseph also was not accepted by his brothers, like David is portrayed in the show. Joseph's brothers hated him so much they sold him into slavery and told their father, Jacob, he was dead.
Genesis 37:18-36