

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 6TH-7TH, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

## RESCUE (1 SAMUEL 23:1-6) WHILE ENCAMPED IN HERETH...

David gets word that the Philistines had attacked a walled city called Keilah and "raided" their food. After hearing this, David immediately "inquired of the Lord."

- It seems like David has learned his lesson to **first consult with God before making serious decisions.**

### "LAUNCH AN ATTACK"

God responded to David with a command to attack the enemy in order to save Keilah.

Because David's men were afraid, he "inquired" again just to make sure he heard correctly.

- It is okay to ask God twice, but **we must not let man's opinions create doubt about God's Word.**

### FOLLOWING GOD'S COMMANDS WORKS.

David followed God's command and was victorious over a seemingly stronger enemy. In his obedience to God, he also helped in the salvation of others.

- **Regardless of how large the enemy looks, if we're faithful to God, we will overcome. Also, our obedience affects other people.**

### THE PRIEST AND THE EPHOD

Abiathar brought the *ephod*, a vest worn by the priest. Here, this showed that David and his men trusted in God and the order of ministry.

- To many, the ephod became a **religious lucky charm that drew them away from a true relationship with God. We must make sure we're relational, not religious.**

## NOT RECIPROCATED (1 SAMUEL 23:7-14)

### "GOD HAS HANDED HIM OVER TO ME..."

After Saul was told that David was in Keilah, he ironically believed God had handed David over to him.

- **When we rely on religious action or are living in sin, we often mistake the actions of God or twist His Word to create a false narrative that we're "good" people.**

### INQUIRING OF GOD AGAIN

David had Abiathar bring the ephod, and he prayed about what to do about Keilah and Saul.

God answered the questions backwards and told David the people would turn him over to Saul to save themselves.

- **Living in the will of God doesn't always have immediate results.**

### DAVID'S SELFLESSNESS WASN'T RECIPROCATED

David's love for his people outweighed his desire for his own security and comfort, but unfortunately, the people didn't care.

- We learn a painful lesson; **we rarely get back what we put into people. This shouldn't deter us from loving others because this is the will and desire of God.**

## NEW PROMISE (1 SAMUEL 23:15-18)

### AN OLD AND FAITHFUL FRIEND

David was lying low in an unknown area called Horesh, which means wooded place, because Saul was still pursuing him. While in Horesh, Jonathan "came to David...and encouraged him in his faith in God."

- **Jon intentionally sought out his friend to encourage him in the Lord.**

### THE NECESSITY OF GODLY FRIENDS (PROVERBS 27:9)

Jon was a godly person who chose righteousness over all things, even family. **We need godly friends in our lives who will be honest and encouraging as they point us towards God.**

- **Do we have people like this around us? Are we being this kind of people?**

## CLOSE CALL (1 SAMUEL 23:19-29)

### WATCHERS NEAR THE STRONGHOLD

The Ziphites were spying on David while he was in Horesh and reported this to Saul. Their betrayal is ironic because they were not only Jews but from the same tribe as David.

- With more irony, Saul responds, "May you be blessed by the Lord..." Again, this shows the confusion Saul is living in.

### THEY ESSENTIALLY BECAME SPIES

The Ziphites sold out David because they **selfishly thought of their own security and comforts above others.**

- **When we live in selfishness and opposition to God, we eventually act as advocates and conduits for evil that will inevitably hurt other people.**

### WHY WAS DAVID RUNNING?

David was the most skilled warrior in Israel, so why was he running from Saul? David might have run because he was outnumbered or he feared starting a bloody civil war.

- Most likely, **he didn't fight out of respect and love for Saul, who, though corrupt,**

was still the chosen king of the Jews.

## TWO SIDES OF THE SAME MOUNTAIN

As David fled in an area of rough terrain, he eventually ended up on the exact opposite side of a mountain from Saul and his men.

- Though this was a dangerously close call, God delivered David via a messenger who reported to Saul that the Philistines were raiding their land, and he called off the pursuit.

### DELIVERING AND SUSTAINING

Direct conflict had been averted, but there would be more conflict to come.

- **Sometimes, God outright delivers us from adversity, but other times, He allows us to go through hardships in order to build our trust in Him and develop our character and wisdom.**

## A DESIRE FOR THE GREATER GOOD

- David didn't have to help the people of Keilah, but **because of his relationship with God, he felt convicted to come to the aid of others** even when it put him in harm's way.
- Do we feel a love for all people? **Do we understand that true Christianity focuses on the collective good of humanity?**

## WE DON'T ALWAYS SEE RECIPROCATION

- What if we love and help people, but they don't appreciate it or even turn on us?
- **We're not responsible for results, only for planting seeds and watering them** (1 Corinthians 3:6). The example of Christ shows us that love is often rejected. It also shows us that **we cannot give up on humanity.**

## COMMUNICATION

- David had a personal relationship with God. This means David **lived by the principles and commands of God's Word**, prayed often, **listened for God's response**, and **obeyed** what God told him to do.
- There is no Christianity without consistent communication with Jesus.

## COMMUNICATION YIELDS RESULTS

- In his communication, David sought God's will and direction, help with personal struggles, and how to engage with others.
- **If we live religiously but not relationally with God, we will have an appearance of godliness but will lack any power to be saved, changed, and led** (2 Timothy 3:5).

## AN INVENTORY

- Are we correctly/biblically loving people?
- How will we handle rejection and betrayal?
- **Are we in a true relationship with God?** Are we **praying, reading, listening, obeying?**
- Will we lean on Him for guidance, patience, hope, and love **because He is our only source of real power?**