

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 7TH, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

## DAVID INQUIRED OF THE LORD (1 SAMUEL 23:1-6) A TALE OF TWO CITIES

It was reported to David, not Saul, that **“the Philistines [were] fighting against Keilah and raiding the threshing floors.”**

- Some areas of Judah recognized that Saul was not fulfilling his obligations as king and went to David, who was not yet king, but he **had defended the people and brought victory over the Philistines in the past.**

### “DAVID INQUIRED OF THE LORD”

David's first response could have been to rush into battle to defend the people of Keilah, or he could have said it was the king's responsibility and not his. Instead, **his first response was to seek the Lord's will.**

- **We must seek the Lord's will in all we do, trusting He will guide us in all our ways** (Psalms 119:35; Jeremiah 10:23).

## THE LORD RESPONDED TO DAVID

The Lord told David, **“Launch an attack against the Philistines and rescue Keilah.”**

- David was aware of the danger this command from God entailed. First, **His army was much smaller** than the Philistine army. Second, he **already had one person trying to kill him**. Third, this would bring him out of hiding into a **clear view of Saul**.

### “LOOK, WE'RE AFRAID...”

David sought the Lord again, not because he didn't like God's answer, but because he relied on the Lord to help him ease his men's troubled hearts.

- God not only confirmed his command but gave David a promise, saying, **“I will hand the Philistines over to you.” God is good to confirm and comfort in troubled times.**

### “DAVID RESCUED THE INHABITANTS OF KEILAH”

Though it was difficult and dangerous, David led his men to Keilah to carry out God's command. **God honored their obedience and kept his promise**, giving them victory over the Philistines.

- In verse six, we see Abiathar coming to David with his ephod. From this point on, **David will have a priest to aid him in seeking God's will for him and his people.**

## DAVID ESCAPES (1 SAMUEL 23:7-14)

### SAUL'S DISTORTED VIEW OF TRUTH

It was reported to Saul that David was fighting the Philistines in Keilah, and **he believed that God had handed David over to him**, trapping him there.

- David trusted in the Lord and sought him often, but **Saul never inquired of the Lord and only trusted in his own thoughts and understanding** (Isaiah 55:8-9).

### DAVID'S IMPORTANT HABIT

David heard that Saul was sending men to kill him, so **he asked Abiathar to come to him so they could seek the Lord's guidance before acting.**

- David asked the Lord two important questions: **Will Saul come down to Keilah and destroy the town, and will the citizens of Keilah hand me over to him?**

### “[THEY] LEFT KEILAH AT ONCE”

God confirmed that Saul was coming, and the people who invited David to rescue them from the Philistines would hand him over to resist the attack from Saul.

- David, in an effort **to avoid further innocent bloodshed, took his now 600 men and left**, not wanting what happened at Nob to happen in Keilah.

### GOD IS PROTECTING DAVID

Saul wouldn't fulfill his role as king and go to Keilah to save them from the Philistines, but being motivated by self-interest, he sent his men to fight a war against David.

- Saul found out that David and his men were no longer in Keilah, so he called off the expedition and **“searched for him every day, but God did not hand David over to him.”**

## ALLEGIANCES (1 SAMUEL 23:15-24A)

### ESSENTIAL TIME FOR GOD'S WORK IN DAVID'S LIFE

The Wilderness of Ziph was a very rough and rugged terrain below the southern tip of the Dead Sea. The mountainous and rocky terrain would have made life very difficult.

- **In the fields, David was a shepherd after God's heart, but in the wilderness, he became a king.**

### “STRENGTHENED HIS HAND IN GOD” (KJV)

Jonathan could not rescue David; he couldn't change things, and he didn't have the answers, but he was with him, **encouraging him in his faith in the Lord.**

- Though we can't rescue someone, change their situation, or have all the answers, **we need to be willing to be in the trenches with each other, encouraging them with truth.**

### “DON'T BE AFRAID”

Jonathan told David not to be afraid and then encouraged him with the truth, giving him reasons not to be fearful. He told him **God would protect him, God's promises were true, and he had a faithful friend by his side.**

- We can be encouraged by these truths, **“for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and sound judgment”** (2 Timothy 1:7).

## JONATHAN RECOGNIZES DAVID AS THE NEXT KING

Jonathan's hopes of being David's second-in-command would never come to pass because he would die before David became king. This is the last time they will see each other, and **the two confirm their covenant.**

- Jonathan states that even his father recognized that David would be king, but **Saul fought God's will with everything he had.**

## RUN TO HIM, FOR HE UNDERSTANDS

The reality is there will be “Jonathans” in our lives, and there will also be “Ziphites.” We will come across those godly, faithful friends and also those who would betray us.

- It was no different for Jesus, who knew both friends and betrayers. In Jesus, **we have a compassionate friend who understands our pain** (Hebrews 4:14-16).

## SAUL'S WARPED PERCEPTION

Saul tells the Ziphites, **“May you be blessed by the Lord,”** thinking that God is honoring this group that would betray an innocent man.

- He also states, **“They tell me he is extremely cunning,”** believing David had survived repeated attacks by David's own craftiness when, in reality, he had been spared by God's goodness and faithfulness.

## THE LORD RESCUES (1 SAMUEL 23:24B-29)

### “THE ROCK OF SEPARATION”

The Ziphites plan to help Saul track David was working. David's location was reported to Saul, and the two groups occupied two sides of the same mountain. When it seemed like David was going to be captured, a messenger came and drew Saul away to fight the Philistines.

- **God's hand was so evident in rescuing them that they set up a memorial.**

## BE ENCOURAGED

David wrote Psalm 54 in reflection of the Ziphites reporting to Saul.

- We can share the heart of David when others attack us. **Be encouraged and know God will sustain us, help us, and ultimately deliver us from all our troubles. We are justified (made right) by His great power.**

## DAVID SOUGHT GOD'S WILL

- It isn't enough to seek God's will or toknow God's will. **We must have a commitment to obey God's will, even when it's difficult.**
- **God gives us exactly what we need. He gives in the right proportion, not giving us too much or too little.**
- **Pray without ceasing** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
- **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.”** (Proverbs 3:5-6)