

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 7TH, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

### GUIDANCE (1 SAMUEL 23:1-14)

#### A DECISION

David receives the news that a local community is about to lose its livelihood. Defending them may cost his life and the men with him. So, he sought God's will.

- This is a turning point in David's process. Earlier, he was wavering in his faith and was a victim of fear. Now, he was set on doing God's will.

#### A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

The men with David would follow him but didn't necessarily have his faith... yet. They were afraid and offered some resistance to David's plan.

- We're reminded of a time when another set of soldiers were paralyzed with fear, and David stood in faith against the Philistines. **David has changed, but God has not.**

#### CONFIRMATION

David didn't resort to his own reasoning to motivate others; he sought God's Word for himself and the men who followed him.

- **Servant leaders don't use dynamic personality, worldly profit, guilt, or abuse to motivate. True servant leadership is based on the plain statement of God's Word.**

#### VICTORY

David is double-sure, and his men follow him into battle. The Philistines are driven out. The city is saved, and Abiathar, the priest, arrives. It was a great day, but trouble was coming.

- **Obedience has its rewards, and there may be time to celebrate victories, but that doesn't mean we will be free from trouble.**

#### TRAPPED

Saul hears about David's journey to Keilah and knows he can easily surround him there. David, about to be trapped, consults God and is delivered and protected again.

- **Trouble will try to make us feel trapped. The only sure way out is to seek God and follow His way to strength, deliverance, and protection.**

### ENCOURAGEMENT (1 SAMUEL 23:15-18)

#### PURSUED

God had instructed David to flee, but that didn't keep Saul from coming after him. He was a man of faith, but the weight of the battle must have worn him down.

- **The reality of knowing that trouble is nearby and may catch us at times can be very depressing. God has given us His Spirit and others to help us stand.**

#### DON'T BE AFRAID

Jonathan leaves the protection of his father and risks his life to go to David. He encouraged him in his faith in God.

- **Sometimes, we need a Jonathan. We always need to be ready to be a Jonathan. We will have to recognize their need, leave our comfort, and be present in their time of struggle.**

### PROTECTION (1 SAMUEL 23:19-29)

#### FOUND

David had received great encouragement from Jonathan. As he was hiding again, some Ziphites told Saul where to find him. It looks like David may have to run away to the next town with little rest.

- **It seems that about the time we start to catch our breath and recover from the battle of life, danger finds us again.**

#### BLESSED?

Saul has so deceived himself that he believes "the Lord" will bless those who reveal where David is hiding.

- This is a warning: Pious-sounding blessings do not necessarily mean that the heart where they originate is morally pure. God does not bless evil, no matter how it may be "dressed up."

#### ON THE RUN

Saul continues to pursue David around the country, and it's wearing David down. Yes, he received encouragement. Yes, his faith was strong. Yes, he was God's anointed. But he was tired. So, he cries out to God (Psalm 54).

- **Even though we have encouragement, faith, and knowledge, we must still cry out to God and depend on Him.**

#### FAITHFULNESS

God was faithful and delivered David by sending Saul to another battle. There was never a doubt that God would protect David. David's faith was being tested for perseverance.

- **We learn to trust God when our circumstances seem without hope. This is where we grow and build relationships.**

#### VISION

- Life gives us many potential paths.
- **As we come to decisions that may affect our next step, we will need vision.**
- **God will always give the best direction because He has the best vision. We must consult His Word and His Spirit. Then, we must submit to His authority.**

### SERVANTS

- Sometimes, life is hard, and we need help.
- **We are always called to be servants.**
- **We are called to encourage one another every day so that others will not be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. We are doing this together. Don't forget to give more than you take.**

### GOD

- God has placed us together for this time.
- **God has a plan for our lives that will have us serve together.**
- **For all we do together, we must always remember that this is about a loving Father Who deserves Glory. This is God's plan, and He has included us. Do we know He is with us? Do we really know how blessed we are?**