

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 3RD-4TH, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

SPARED (AGAIN) (1 SAMUEL 26:1-16) SOLD OUT AGAIN

As David was "hiding on the hill of Hachilah," some of his kinsmen, the Ziphites, went to Saul and told him where David was. When David realized Saul was chasing him again, he sent spies to get more intel.

- That night, David and Abishai went to the exact spot Saul and his guards were sleeping.

A SPEAR AND A JUG OF WATER

When David approached the camp, he saw Abner, commander of Saul's army, lying next to Saul. He also saw a jug of water and a spear "stuck in the ground by [Saul's] head."

- Ironically, this was the same spear (scepter) that Saul tried to kill David and Jon with in Chapters 19 and 20.

TRUSTING AND OBEYING GOD

Abishai whispered to David, "Let me thrust the spear through him into the ground..." but David wouldn't allow it. At least in this situation, David was going to trust and obey God.

- **The temptation to take the quick and easy route is strong, but we must remember God's principles focus on long-term results.**

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT "GOD'S ANOINTED?"

The instruction to not "touch God's anointed" is less about who God has chosen and more about teaching us to trust His ways and will.

- **God may use evil people in positions of authority to teach us valuable lessons.** One of those lessons is **to learn balance and wisdom as we speak truth in love.**

"YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU?"

As God placed Saul's men into a "deep sleep," David's men grabbed the jug and crossed to the other side. David then yells back to Abner.

- David's chastisement focused on **honoring God, excellence, respect, and work ethic.** **These are for all Christians, but men should be exceptional models of these traits.**

DIFFERENT WAYS (1 SAMUEL 26:17-25)

"IS THAT YOUR VOICE, MY SON DAVID?"

The shouting woke Saul and again we see a little of his madness as he calls David "son" and once again feels remorse.

- **In Christ, we mature into a decisive and consistent lifestyle. When we don't put our faith in Jesus, we live in instability and insecurity, and it can drive us mad.**

IT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU'RE LISTENING TO

Again, David pleads his case and states that if he has been wrong, he will repent. He also says if Saul is doing this because of peer pressure, they would all be cursed by God.

- We're to **be humble and repent if we're wrong**, but also **stand firm on truth and not let the approval of others detour our faith.**

GOD REWARDS AND PUNISHES

David reminds Saul that God "repay[s]" all people for their loyalty and that valuing others helps us understand our value before God.

- Faith in hard times builds character. We're to **seek God's kingdom** (Matthew 6:33), be **content and faithful in all circumstances** (Philippians 4:11), and **we will reap what we sow** (Galatians 6:7).

DAVID WENT ON HIS WAY, AND SAUL WENT HOME

After Saul seems to humble himself again, he sincerely claims that David will "certainly do great things." And again, the two men go their separate ways.

- Though God has delivered David again, we will see **how far we can sink down when we let doubt creep in.**

WHEN DOUBT CREEPS IN (1 SAMUEL 27:1-7)

"ONE OF THESE DAYS..."

Though David had slain a giant and had been delivered from Saul multiple times, he apparently let doubt and fear creep in and he took matters into his own hands.

- **God doesn't take us places just to fail. We must establish God's reputation in our lives by not forgetting His past provisions.**

DOUBT WILL LEAD US INTO ENEMY TERRITORY

David took his men into Philistine territory to meet with the king of Gath, Achish (Ch. 21).

Though this strategy kept Saul from pursuing him, David had to venture into a dangerous area.

- **Doubting God diminishes our ability to be wise and discern. When we lack these gifts, we venture into dangerous places.**

DOUBT LEADS TO COMPROMISE

David was in a pagan area submitting to a pagan authority because he was fearful and doubted God. Achish sacrificed to false gods and would make his subjects do the same.

- **When doubt leads us to places we shouldn't be, we compromise truth and make "sacrifices" to lesser "gods."**

GOD WAS STILL WORKING

Though David is in doubt and fear and would make more mistakes, he eventually repents. God still moves in this situation by bringing Ziklag back under Jewish control.

- **God still works out His will even when we're foolish, but this should never be used as an excuse to sin.**

WHEN SELF-PITY SLIPS IN (1 SAMUEL 27:8-28:2)

PLAYING CHARADES

In order not to be forced into war with his own people, the Israelites, David would slaughter whole gentile communities and then lie to Achish about whom he raided.

- **Fear led to selfishness, which led to lying and attacking others. This path eventually becomes our "custom," or character.**

THE DEPTHS SIN WILL TAKE US TO

When we start down the path of doubting God and self-preservation, we will gravitate toward people, places, and things that will lead us into sin.

- **Sin has an insatiable appetite and the goal of Satan is to steal, kill, and destroy. Sin will take us to shockingly dark places.**

"...YOU WILL FIND OUT WHAT YOUR SERVANT CAN DO."

David would be forgiven, but most likely he wasn't granted the right to build the temple in Jerusalem because of his bloodshed and hubris during this time (1 Chronicles 22:8).

- **Though Jesus is quick to forgive and restore, sin always carries some level of ramifications.**

WHO WAS HE TRYING TO IMPRESS?

David was gaining approval from Achish and disgruntled Israelites who hated Saul, but in God's eyes he was out of His will and sinking.

- **Our selfish scheming may impress some people and even get us short-term results, but God sees it all, and the long-term results will not be in our favor.**

THE BENEFITS OF TRUST AND LOYALTY

- When David patiently trusted and obeyed God, he walked in the security of God's provision and had the wisdom and discernment to make beneficial choices.
- **If we will be in relationship with God in the good and bad seasons of life, we will be able to live wise, content, and fulfilled lives.**

THE DANGER OF FEAR AND DOUBT

- When we lack faith in and obedience to God, **fear and doubt creep in** and we start to take matters into our own hands. In this, **we start to gravitate toward destructive people, places, and things.**
- **We must remember that God loves us and wants the best for us!**

THE DANGER OF SELF-PITY

- **When we play the victim, it makes everyone else the enemy** and we become **entitled** and start to rationalize and justify **envy, hate, and even violence.**
- It is important to remember that God graciously gives what He knows we need, and we are not owed anything.

WE MUST FIGHT SPIRITUAL FATIGUE

- Like David, we can easily get fatigued by the tension and adversity in life and move in a destructive direction. **But we must intentionally guard ourselves from things that can sneak in and separate us from God's will.**
- As Christians, we are to pour out, but we must also be poured into. We do this through the **church, accountability and counsel, personal prayer time, ingesting God's Word, choosing to meditate on and be thankful for the goodness of God, and taking time to sabbath (rest).**