

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 4TH, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

DAVID SPARES SAUL AGAIN (1 SAMUEL 26:1-12) BETRAYED AGAIN

The Ziphites were previously unsuccessful in handing David over to Saul (23:19-23), so in hopes of gaining favor from Saul, they try to help him find David again.

- Saul took 3000 men to the place reported by the Ziphites, showing **there was no true heart change when he wept for having hunted David** (24:16-21).

THE TABLES ARE TURNING

Instead of hiding and waiting, now **David is sending men to be aware of Saul's location and is actively seeking him out.**

- Jesus "**overturned the tables**" of those who took advantage of the people of God (Matthew 21:12-17). God **turned the tables** on those who oppressed and hated the people of God (Romans 16:20; Esther 9:1-5).

DAVID DISCOVERS SAUL'S LOCATION

David and Abishai go into the camp at night. Typically, a military leader would send someone else; he had 600 men and could surely find someone capable of such a mission.

- The fact that David went himself **shows his boldness and courage**, but ultimately **it shows that God was leading him.**

TEMPTATION KNOCKS AGAIN

Saul and his men were asleep, leaving Saul vulnerable to attack with his spear stuck in the ground beside him.

David's men try to convince him again that this opportunity to kill his enemy was given to him by God (24:4).

- **Temptation never knocks once and goes away, but God will always provide a way out** (1 Corinthians 10:13).

GOOD DOES NOT MEAN GODLY

The temptation to take vengeance into his own hands was increased when **Abishai told David he would strike Saul himself.**

- **Consider the company you keep.** Abishai may not have been a "bad guy," but his ungodly counsel could have caused David to sin. "**Bad company corrupts good morals**" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

THE LORD'S ANOINTED

David resisted the temptation to take vengeance into his own hands, knowing **Saul was the anointed king of Israel and no one could attack him and remain guiltless.**

- **Those placed in a position by God are God's to deal with. We are not to take control into our own hands. God establishes kings and removes them** (Daniel 2:21).

HE IS MORE THAN CAPABLE

David would not lay a hand on Saul and **instructed his men to only take his spear and water jug.**

- David knew **God was more than capable of dealing with Saul** and would do so however He chose. **Vengeance belongs to God** (Romans 12:17-21) and not us, so **we are to love our enemies and never repay evil with evil.**

DAVID PROVIDES EVIDENCE (1 SAMUEL 26:13-25)

SAUL'S MEN FAILED HIM

Saul's men were to secure an area for the king and then protect him, but they had failed at doing so, allowing David to enter their camp.

- To prove their failure, David asks them, "**Where are the king's spear and water jug that were by his head?**" Like the corner of Saul's robe, **the spear and water jug provided evidence that David could have killed Saul.**

HOPING FOR REVELATION

The shouting awakened Saul who recognized David's voice. Once again, **David asked what he had done to bring the king's wrath against him.**

- David knew the answer but asked it again **to hopefully reveal to Saul that he was hunting an innocent man.** David hoped for a genuine heart change in Saul.

DAVID HUMBLY SPEAKS TO SAUL

David hoped Saul would evaluate the motive behind his pursuit. **If the Lord had influenced his pursuit, David would be guilty** and would give an offering, but **if it was his men who influenced him, then they would be guilty themselves.**

- **We must always address the possibility of our sin before we point out the sin in others so we judge fairly and clearly** (Matthew 7:3-5).

DISCERNING TRUTH

Again, **Saul confesses that he had sinned in pursuing David, acknowledged that David again spared his life,** and vowed not to try and harm him again.

- David **humbly received what Saul said,** and though he was invited to come back with Saul, **he wisely refused,** and they went their separate ways.

DAVID RETURNS SAUL'S SPEAR

The **spear was also symbolic of Saul's kingship,** much like his robe.

- Returning the spear was significant in that **it displayed David's trust that the Lord would reward him for his righteousness and faithfulness.** Seek God's Kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33), and **we do not have to worry about the trials we will face.**

DAVID AMONG THE UNGODLY (1 SAMUEL 27:1-28:2)

DAVID FORGOT ABOUT GOD'S DELIVERANCE.

In a moment of self-pity and doubt, **David had forgotten how God had delivered him from his enemies and anointed him as king over Israel.**

- David was driven by his emotions to the one place Saul could not find him: Philistine territory. **We cannot suppress or ignore our emotions, but we do not let them be the driving force of our decisions.**

DAVID IS STILL A LEADER, BUT TO WHERE?

David takes his men to the king of Gath, where he once pretended to be insane to save himself (21:10-15).

Now, of right mind, he **vows to serve the pagan king,** staying there for 16 months.

- **David's discouragement and despair proved to be more of an enemy than Saul, driving him and 600 families to live among the ungodly.**

DAVID KILLS TO COVER HIS SIN

David attacked only enemies of Judah but **lied to Achish, claiming to have attacked Judean settlements in the Negev.** To cover up his deception, **he left no one alive in the settlements he attacked.**

- Achish believed David and **believed he was now so hated by his own people that David would be his servant forever.**

A SPIRITUAL LOW FOR DAVID

Achish took note of David's victories in battle and brought him in to fight against Israel, his own people. **His self-pity and doubt have now placed him in a position to live the lies he gave.**

- **He had gained prestige and a city from the king of Gath but has now found himself pitted against the King of Heaven.**

"WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS"

- The rain falls on the just and the unjust (**Matthew 5:45**). It is inevitable that rain will fall on all of us, while for some, it pours.
- Adversity creates a deeper appreciation for life and a stronger character (**James 1:2-4**).
- **Jesus suffered the pains of the cross for us, giving us an example to follow.**

BE NOT OVERCOME WITH EVIL...

- Our adversity and our suffering never excuse our sin.
- We must trust God is more than capable of dealing with our enemies and would do so however and whenever He pleases. **Vengeance belongs to God (Romans 12:17-21) and not us, so we are to love our enemies and never repay evil with evil.**

COUNTED AS WORTHY THROUGH THE SON

- If we remain faithful through our suffering, we will be "**counted worthy of God's kingdom**" (2 Thessalonians 1:5).
- We know that God will vindicate those who suffer for Him (Psalm 37) and our reward is heaven (Matthew 5:10-12), so **we hold to the One who is holding us!**