

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 1 Samuel Chapters 22-24 9/8-9/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

1 SAMUEL – Chapter 22 – David’s Four Hundred Men – (vs. 1-5)! Saul Murders the Priests (vs. 6-23)! Chapter 23 – David Saves the City of Keilah (vs. 1-13)! David in Wilderness Strongholds– (vs. 14-29)! Chapter 24 – David Spares Saul (vs. 1-22)!

- In chapter 22 we follow David in his flight from Saul.

David at the Cave of Adullam; Mizpah of Moab; Forest of Hereth – *Psalms 57, 142*

1Sa 22:1 David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.

- Adullam is in the valley of Elah, upwards from the area where David killed the giant, not far from Bethlehem. His father and his family, come there to the cave Adullam to meet David, and to escape from the Philistines! At this point, Saul is irrational. His anger, totally unprovoked against David, could at any time spread beyond David to his family. So, David’s family gather with him.

1Sa 22:2 And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

- There began to gather a group of men around David that ultimately would become David's mighty men. Men that would ultimately share the kingdom with David. Interesting, these men were, first of all, *"distressed, they were in debt, and they were discontent."* What a pain.
- **"Everyone who was discontented gathered to him. Saul was a tyrant,** Saul had become a madman: moods of deep melancholy, vicious temper. He was getting dangerous. His tyranny was such as he was beginning to destroy the innocent. Those that were really upset with the way the kingdom was going, they gathered to David and they began to form this core group that would one day reign with David when he took over the kingdom.

1Sa 22:3 *Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me."*

- David's future was uncertain. He did not want to expose his elderly parents to the hazards of living in the wilderness, running from Saul, seeking to hide and to escape from Saul. David came to the king, and asked him to 'please take care of his mom and dad, let them live there in peace and safety of Moab, away from Saul.

1Sa 22:4-5 *So he brought them before the king of Moab, and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. (In the area of the wilderness, fleeing from Saul) [5] Now the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go to the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth (to cut, engrave).*

- At times we can be completely free but be in bondage. David says. Bring my soul out of prison that I might praise Your name. The righteous shall surround me for You shall deal bountifully with me!
- That is **Psalm 142**, written at this stage, coming from Adullam into the forest of Hereth. This boot camp, where kings are raised up and where men and women of God are raised, and He's engraving things on David's life that will be there throughout his entire life.

Saul Kills the Priests at Nob - Psalm 52

1Sa 22:6-8 *When Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered—now Saul was staying in Gibeah under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants standing about him— [7] then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds? [8] All of you have conspired against me (5x), and there is no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; and there is not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day."*

- Evidently, Saul found out and knew the bond that existed between Jonathan and David. He accused Jonathan of this love for David. Remember last week, he tried to kill his own son, Jonathan, when Jonathan spoke up for David. Now he is accusing all of these men around him. He begins to accuse all of them of a conspiracy against him.
- Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin. He had, no doubt, begun to show favoritism towards his own tribe, which would alienate the other tribes from him. He accuses them all of conspiracy.
- *There is not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me.* He is accusing Jonathan, actually, of stirring up David to kill him. 'You don't feel sorry for me.' He is just putting on this sad scene.

1Sa 22:9-10 *Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who (the herdsmen) was set over the servants of Saul, and said, "I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. [10] And he inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."*

- Notice that Doeg's answer, while partially is factual, leaves out so much, it is essentially a lie, creating the wrong impression.
- **Telling half-truths! How much of this tendency do I have in slanting my answers to give a totally wrong impression, which is really lying, creating catastrophic results?** (Doeg's killing 85 priests)

1Sa 22:11-12 *So the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were in Nob. And they all came to the king. [12] And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub!" He answered, "Here I am, my lord."*

- Ahitub was the son of Eli the priest. The line of Eli is about to be cut off.

1Sa 22:13 Then Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him (was untrue), that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?"

- Now, Saul was paranoid, thinking that David was out to kill him. When David was fleeing from Saul, he came to Ahimelech and asked for the bread, the showbread, he took it for himself and his men. He said, "Do you have a sword here?" He said, "The only sword I have is Goliath's." David took the sword of Goliath. Doeg was there. He saw David. Now Doeg is telling Saul, leaving out important facts, what Ahimelech had done for David, creating a false impression of Ahimelech helping David.

1Sa 22:14 So Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house?"

- Ahimelech answered, "Saul, you do not have a more faithful, more honorable servant than David. He is obedient, he is loyal." Ahimelech is standing up for David.

1Sa 22:15 Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, or to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much."

- Ahimelech says, "I do not know anything about it. I do not know what you are talking about, man. I am not in any conspiracy: and David surely is one of the most faithful, honorable men in your whole house."

1Sa 22:16-17 And the king said (in his madness and rage), "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house!" [17] Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me." But the servants of the king would not lift their hands (they feared the LORD) to strike the priests of the LORD.

- The guards, his bodyguards ran alongside the chariot. They were really the secret service there to protect the king. Saul ordered his guards to kill the priests of the LORD, but these men were afraid to put their hand against the priests of God.

1Sa 22:18-19 And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod (priestly garment). [19] Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep—with the edge of the sword.

- As Doeg reports to Saul that Ahimelech is helping David, Saul's fierce and ungodly vengeance results in murdering eighty-five priests Ahimelech was totally innocent!
- Doeg then went and just wiped out the priestly city of Nob, killing all the families, all of the wives, the children, the babies: he killed them all, with their animals! Vicious, heartless, insane: such the condition of Saul at this point.
- This is the most horrendous single thing that Saul ever did or allowed, to wipe out the entire city of the priests and all of their wives and their children, putting them all to death!
- This is the context to David's (Psa 52:1-5, 8-9) To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of David When Doeg the Edomite Went and Told Saul, and Said to Him, "David Has Gone to the House of Ahimelech." [1] Why do you boast in evil. O mighty man? The goodness of God endures continually. [2] Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. [3] You love evil more than good, Lying rather than speaking righteousness. Selah [4] You love all devouring words, You deceitful tongue. [5] God shall likewise destroy you forever; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of your dwelling place, And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah. [8] But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. [9] I will praise You forever. Because You have done it; And in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.

1Sa 22:20-22 Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar (last of the line of Eli), escaped and fled after David. [21] And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD's priests. [22] So David said to Abiathar, "I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have caused the death of all the persons of your father's house."

- It was not David's fault. But that is the heart of David towards Israel and the priests. It was the heart of David towards the worship of the LORD, whom he loved and had worshipped for years himself. He says this is my fault. *I have caused the death of all of the persons of your father's house!*
- (Act 13:22c) **'I HAVE FOUND DAVID THE SON OF JESSE, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL DO ALL MY WILL.'** (Jas 2:23b) And he (Abraham) was called the friend of God.

- Notice David's heart in *(Psa 142:1-5) A Contemplation Of David. A Prayer When He Was in the Cave. I cry out to the LORD with my voice; With my voice to the LORD I make my supplication. [2] I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble. [3] When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, Then You knew my path. In the way in which I walk They have secretly set a snare for me. [4] Look on my right hand and see, For there is no one who acknowledges me; Refuge has failed me; No one cares for my soul. [5] I cried out to You, O LORD: I said, "You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. [6] Attend to my cry, For I am brought very low; Deliver me from my persecutors, For they are stronger than I. [7] Bring my soul out of prison, That I may praise Your name; The righteous shall surround me, For You shall deal bountifully with me."*

1Sa 22:23 Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe."

- ***One escaped! Abiathar came to David, reporting what Saul had done!*** Because of David's sensitive conscience, he took the blame for it. David said, "Stay with me!" Saul seeks your life as well. With me you shall be safe! David seems convinced at this point that God will sustain him. ***(1Ki 2:27) So Solomon removed Abiathar from being priest*** (choosing Zadok) ***to the LORD, that he might fulfill the word of the LORD which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh.***

Chapter 23 – Note the background of David's contemplations of this chapter in Psalms 27, 31, and 54 - David Saves the City of Keilah

1Sa 23:1 Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah (several miles south of Adullam), ***and they are robbing the threshing floors."***

- ***The Philistines were coming in at the end of the harvest when*** the grain has been gathered. ***It is when the nation is the most vulnerable, the enemy comes in*** and takes all the grain, causing not only starvation, but having no seed for next year's crop. Try to imagine in their lives of an agricultural society what it is like to have the enemies coming in right at harvest time, taking everything!

1Sa 23:2 Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah."

- ***David is not bitter here. He is not mad at God.*** He prays ***to the LORD!*** He gets on his knees, ***inquiring of the LORD,*** probably through the Urim and Thummim in the ephod Abiathar brought with him, saying shall I go and smite these Philistines?
- ***The LORD said unto David, go and attack them!*** Notice this? And ***save Keilah!*** You see, ***David's concern is for Israel.*** He ***understands the LORD is the King of Israel, the real King of Israel.*** Saul's concern is for himself. He is killing Israel's priests. ***David's concern is for the people of Israel!***

1Sa 23:3 But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more than if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?"

- ***David's men responded, Hey man, we are not ready for this!*** We are hiding from Saul! We are vulnerable enough here in Judah. We are only 400 men. How much more if we come to Keilah now to fight the armies of the Philistines? It is tough enough here, much less there! ***But David has had things engraved upon his heart!***

1Sa 23:4 Then David inquired of the LORD once again. And the LORD answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand."

- ***David does not say, listen I am in charge, but he does not do that!*** David then went and inquired of the LORD again, saying to the guys, "I will check again." ***Let me go seek the LORD!*** There is a ***humility there,*** the mark of a great leader. He prays again! The LORD answered, ***Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand!***

1Sa 23:5 And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

- Please note that David saved the inhabitants of Keilah. He ***saved them!*** It does not say that he helped them to get them over the hump. ***It says he saved the entire city!*** Just as the LORD had said!

1Sa 23:6-7 Now it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he went down with an ephod (likely including the Urim and Thummim) ***in his hand. [7] And Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. So Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars."***

- **Saul blinded by rebellion thinks that God had blessed him and given him victory over David.** Not true! It was true that God led David to Keilah, exposing David to Saul's attack. But it was not that the *LORD* had delivered him into my hand, as Saul will soon see.

1Sa 23:8 Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

- **God could have easily dealt with Keilah and Saul,** but they were instruments at this point in His hand, to work on the life of this man David, whom He loved so deeply.

1Sa 23:9-12 When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." [10] Then David said, "O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. [11] Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down." [12] Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will deliver you."

- **If you had been the one who had delivered the people from their enemy, you would think,** "Well, surely the people will appreciate what I have done and they will help protect me." Possibly you would think, 'There is no need to even pray about this. I do not have to ask the *LORD* about this situation.' That is always a dangerous assumption to make! It is always wise to seek the council of God even when things seem to be quite obvious.
- **Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?** And the LORD said, "They will deliver you." David wisely was guided by the *LORD*; God gave him the answers he needed. David was able to escape from the hand of Saul.
- **David is being raised up to fight the battles of the LORD, not the battles of David.** The *LORD* is no doubt speaking to David, saying, are you really willing to be a shepherd over my people, Israel? Are you willing to be for them what you were for your father's flock and the day that you faced the lion and the bear? Did you get any kind of reward from that? Is it? Did you get any kind of returns, David?
- **The thing that helped David maintain perspective to go and rescue Keilah** was because God told him to. He did it as unto the *LORD*. Whenever we do something as unto the *LORD*, it is His battle and the enemy's response does not matter that much to us.
- **God reminds David about the nation of Israel.** They have been this way to Me since I have brought them out of Egypt. They have turned; they have served other gods. They have rebelled. I have dealt with them over and over and over. But David, I care for them. I have a covenant with them because I love them.
- **If you are** going to serve Me as an under shepherd and fight My battles, your returns are never going to come from the people. The returns are going to come when you sit in My presence, David. Because you can lay down your life and you can save them.

1Sa 23:13 So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.

- **About six hundred men.** God increased the number of men! David was obedient to the *LORD*. He did what the *LORD* asked. He did not retaliate against the men of Keilah. People are joining him because they see the work of God in his life.
- **David and his men were only strengthened by being obedient to the LORD. They did not lose anything.** They arose and departed out of Keilah And look at this. They went wherever they could go. This is a tough crowd, man. And it was told Saul and David escaped from Kayla, so *Saul halted the expedition.* It saved a battle there,

1Sa 23:14-15 *And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand. [15] So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest.*

- David was in the wilderness and in more than one sense. No doubt, spiritually, emotionally, mentally, there are things that David is wrestling through. God is making him into a man and into the man of God. He wants him to be.

1Sa 23:16 *Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.*

- Jonathan went to David. (Iron sharpening iron!) He did not have to seek him every day to find him. Saul was trying to kill him. He could never find him. Jonathan loved David and loved the LORD. He found him right away. This relationship between Jonathan and David is one of the best pictures in all the Bible of ironing sharpening iron!

1Sa 23:17-18 *And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that." [18] So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.*

- Jonathan went to his house. That was the last time David saw him. The next time David will see Jonathan is seeing his body hanging on the wall having been killed by the Philistines in battle.

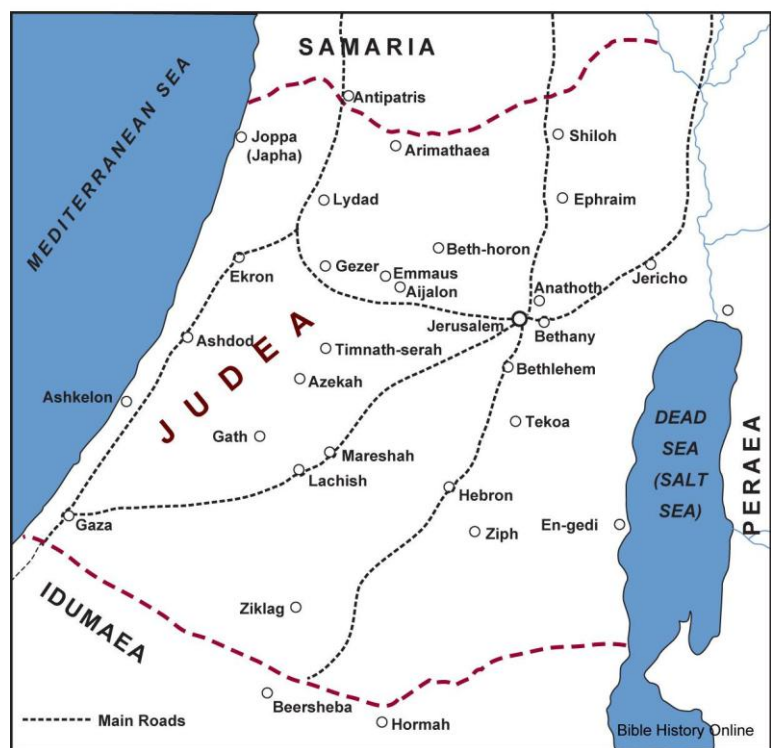
1Sa 23:19 *Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?"*

- David was out in the wilderness in places that were very hard to get to. The Ziphites came to Saul, telling him where David is hiding.

1Sa 23:20 *Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand."*



MAP OF JUDEA AND SOUTHERN ISRAEL



- **Saul, come down, we will deliver him into your hand. Remember this situation** the next time someone you know betrays you, stabs you in the back, gossips about you, slanders you. Just say as you remember David, I understand the Lord gave me to you as a blessing.

1Sa 23:21 And Saul said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, for you have compassion on me.

- **Saul is out of his mind, God's not going to bless his Ziphite fights at all.** They are betraying God's anointed. That is completely wrong. It is incredible hypocrisy!

1Sa 23:22-24 Please go and find out for sure, and see the place where his hideout is, and who has seen him there. For I am told he is very crafty. [23] See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides; and come back to me with certainty, and I will go with you. And it shall be, if he is in the land, that I will search for him throughout all the clans of Judah." [24] So they arose and went to Ziph before Saul. But David and his men were in the Wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon.

- **David had already moved on** to a little bit further south into the area of Maon.

1Sa 23:25-27 When Saul and his men went to seek him, they told David. Therefore he went down to the rock, and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon. [26] Then Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. So David made haste to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them. [27] But a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have invaded the land!"

- **In this area where David was hiding: there was this steep, steep ravine that you just could not get across.** Saul could not cross the ravine without giving David time to escape, but Saul had pretty much circled him in at this point.
- **But a messenger came to Saul!** It is a long, hard trial. But all the way through, God is leaving his fingerprints for David, so that he can look and see, okay, it looks like I have got the whole world against me right now. But God is leaving His fingerprints to let me know that He's keeping His promises that He's with me! That He is for me!
- ***In times of a great trial or difficulty, even being very fearful, can I see His fingerprints in every situation, recognizing that He at work in my life; He is with me and for me, which encourages my heart?***

1Sa 23:28 Therefore Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines; so they called that place the Rock of Escape (the place of division). [29] Then David went up from there and dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi.

- **Now he is heading on down toward the Dead Sea in that wilderness area of En Gedi.** David was providentially saved by God by the attack of the Philistines, and Saul had to go. Saul had him trapped, and then Saul had to leave him in order to protect the people from the Philistines.

David Spares Saul's Life at En Gedi – To get even or not to get even!

1Sa 24:1-3 Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Take note! David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi." [2] Then Saul took three thousand chosen men (special forces) from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats. [3] So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)

- ***To attend to his needs.*** David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave: What are the chances that Saul must attend to his personal needs at the very moment, in the very cave where David hides? This was no coincidence but arranged by God to test David, to train David, and display David's godly heart.
- **Some scholars think this means Saul went in to sleep, but most believe this is a euphemism for having a bowel movement, as the person would crouch with his inner garment dropped to his feet leaving himself completely vulnerable physically. So here David is going to have an opportunity to kill Saul and bring an end to this very, very long, difficult trial that both he and his men are in.**

1Sa 24:4 Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

- **David's men are saying, this is it man!** God's placed him in your hand so you can wipe him out! There is a real challenge for David here. We know that God could have taken Saul anytime He wanted. **But God is keeping Saul alive at this point as part of David's training** to be the king that he has been anointed to be. David wisely sneaks up where Saul had laid his robe aside, *cutting off a corner*.
- **An important lesson us. We have to be careful when we are in a long, unjust, unfair trial** and are given the opportunity to end the trial by doing damage to somebody else. We really have to be careful in these deep trials of the counsel that we receive from those that love us the most. They were not thinking so much about what would be godly counsel, but what would be the fastest end to this trial? So they counsel him in this way!
- **In such situations as this ("Saul has been delivered into David's hand"), how much weight in making my decision is based on the consensus of my Godly friends? A little? Much? How much on what the LORD is telling me? Some? Most? All?**

1Sa 24:5 Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.

- **What a heart David has!** You know we love David at this point in his life. You know he is tender. You know that that he is so sensitive to the Spirit. He has got a sensitive conscience. He was cut to the heart. His own *heart troubled him because he had done this*.
- **Would I have responded with any similarity to that of David, because of his sensitive spirit and conscience? Is my response "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to the LORD's anointed?" Or "The LORD forbid me of grieving the Holy Spirit"?**

1Sa 24:6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."

- **David had tremendous respect for Saul even though** the anointing of God had departed from him. God had ordained that David be anointed king. Samuel had come with the anointing oil, anointed him; and yet, the fact that Saul had once had the anointing of God upon his life, David would not touch him. David had tremendous respect for the anointing of God.
- **David looks at Saul and says, He is anointed by God.** This is not my business. It is God's business to take out Saul whenever He wants to take out Saul and make me king as He has promised.

1Sa 24:7 So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

- The word "restrained" is quite strong, "restrained and with difficulty." *David restrained his servants with these words!* They wanted to wipe Saul out, but he would not allow them to rise against him. They were ready to do Saul in right there, *but Saul got up from the cave, and went on his way*.

1Sa 24:8 David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down.

- Here is David, still respecting and honoring Saul, calling him, "My lord the king," and then *stooped with his face to the earth*, bowing himself before him.

1Sa 24:9-12 And David said to Saul: "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Indeed David seeks your harm'? [10] Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.' [11] Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. [12] Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you.

- **Here is tremendous wisdom on David's part**, and it shows the spiritual character of David: 'I am not going to touch you!' If God wants to do it, that is His business, but I am not going to take God's business into my hands. The *LORD judge between you and me*. If the *LORD* wants to kill you, that is His business, but I am not going to kill you!
- **David was willing to wait for God's purposes to be worked out by God.** It is a lesson at which we often stumble, not understanding and knowing the purposes of God. It is my duty to plunge in and help God do His business.
- **So often we just mess things up when we try to help.** My reason for trying is that somehow I feel that God cannot do His business unless I help Him. David did not make that mistake: 'Hey, if God wants to

depose you and put me on the throne, God can do that. I am not going to step in and do that. I am not going to lay my hand against you. God can avenge me, but I am not going to try to avenge myself.'

1Sa 24:13 *As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.' But my hand shall not be against you.*

- But Saul, I am not wicked. I do not have wicked intentions against you. I am not going to lay my hand on you!

1Sa 24:14 *After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea?*

- Saul, here you have come out with three thousand choice men. Whom have you come out after? I mean, I am a nothing, man. In fact, less than a dead dog! Less than a flea!

1Sa 24:15 *Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand."*

- David placed his case completely with the LORD: "May the LORD plead my cause; be my defense (my Advocate!); deliver me out of your hand." David is just pouring his heart out to Saul in this impassioned speech to him!

1Sa 24:16 *So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.*

- The guy is really double minded! I mean, he is gone. David makes this impassioned plea, and Saul realizes, 'Hey, he could have done me in.' "Is this your voice, my son, David?" Boo, hoo, hoo: poor guy.

1Sa 24:17-22 *Then he said to David: "You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil. [18] And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. [19] For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? Therefore may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. [20] And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. [21] Therefore swear now to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house." [22] So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.*

- Saul does everything here but repent, which is the thing he most needed to do! He confesses his sin. He confesses he is wrong. He confesses that David's going to be the next king, but he will not repent! Repent means to have a change of mind that results in a change of direction. The Bible says (2Co 7:10) For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. There is a sorrow of the world that Saul has. Saul is very, very sorry here. There is a sorrow that I can have over how I have wasted my life; over my decision-making; over the consequences of my sin. None of that is a godly sorrow. A sorrow that comes from God will always translate into repentance. I will turn from the direction, ungodly direction that I am going in. Then I will change that direction and now do what is right.
- With Saul, it was all surface. Unfortunately, it did not go deeper than that. There was not a real repentance, there was not a change of the heart. Thus, the problem was only postponed; but it is going to rise again.
- So with us: if there is not a work of God's Spirit within your heart, and the change within your heart, you are only postponing the problem. It is going to rise again! It is going to be there. You must have that work of God's Spirit in the change of your heart to really bring about the changes that God wants in your life. It is not just, "I'm sorry that I did it." It's, "I'm so sorry, I will never do it again!" That is the change that God wants. Only God can affect those changes in our lives and only as we yield ourselves unto Him, and to that work of His Spirit within our hearts: "Oh God, change my heart, change my attitude." And the changed heart and attitude will bring the change of actions! The other way around will not work. You cannot change your heart by changing your actions.
- **How willing am I to allow the Spirit to change my heart and my attitude to that which the LORD desires? Am I seriously praying for that?**
- Let us learn from the tragedy of Saul!
- Change my heart, oh God!

SUMMARY

- **Telling half-truths! How much of this tendency do I have in slanting my answers to give a totally wrong impression, which is really lying, creating catastrophic results? (Doeg's killing priests) (1Sa 22:10)**
- **In times of a great trial or difficulty, even being very fearful, can I see His fingerprints in every situation, recognizing that He at work in my life; He is with me and for me, which encourages my heart? ? (1Sa 23:27)**
- **In such situations as this ("Saul has been delivered into David's hand"), how much weight in making my decision is based on the consensus of my Godly friends? A little? Much? How much on what the LORD is telling me? Some? Most? All? (1Sa 24:4)**
- **Would I have responded with any similarity to that of David, because of his sensitive spirit and conscience? Is my response "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to the LORD's anointed?" Or "The LORD forbid me of grieving the Holy Spirit"? (1Sa 24:5)**
- **How willing am I to allow the Spirit to change my heart and my attitude to that which the LORD desires? Am I seriously praying for that? (1Sa 24:22)**

CHANGE MY HEART OH GOD Eddie Espinosa, Maratha Praise Band (2:24/2:27)

*Change my heart oh God Make it ever true Change my heart oh God May I be like You
Change my heart oh God Make it ever true Change my heart oh God May I be like You
You are the potter I am the clay Mold me and make me This is what I pray
Change my heart oh God Make it ever true Change my heart oh God May I be like You
May I be like You May I be like You*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 1 Samuel, Chapters 25-26!