

1 SAMUEL 23:10-12 -- DAVID SAVES THE CITY OF KEILAH!

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SPEAK, Lord, In The Stillness – Hymn #5 - E. May Grimes – Harold Green

- 1 *Speak, Lord, in the stillness while I wait on Thee; hushed my heart to listen in expectancy.*
- 2 *Speak, O blessed Master, in this quiet hour; let me see Thy face, Lord, feel Thy touch of power.*
- 3 *For the words Thou speakest, they are life indeed; living bread from heaven, now my spirit feed!*
- 4 *All to Thee is yielded, I am not my own; blissful, glad surrender, I am Thine alone.*
- 5 *Fill me with the knowledge of Thy glorious will; all Thine own good pleasure in my life fulfill.*
- 6 *Like "a watered garden" Full of fragrance rare Lingering in Thy presence Let my life appear. Amen*

Chapter 23– David Saves Keilah

It was important that David live, for it was he who would deliver Israel, establish the kingdom in glory, and become the father of Christ in the flesh (Rom_1:3). Satan used Saul to seek to kill David, but God was too strong for the enemy. As long as David sought the mind of the Lord, God gave him protection and victory.

1Sa 23:1 Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors."

- When David was hiding out in the *stronghold* (1Sa 22:5) he was safe, but he couldn't be reached in a time of need to help God's people. One of the great reasons why God called David out of the stronghold, into a place of greater danger (the land of Judah), was so that he could serve and bless God's people more effectively.
- God loved His people too much to let them suffer with an unfaithful Saul. God would raise up a man who was, and David was the one. God directed David to act like a king even if he was not the king yet.

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."

- This shows David's wisdom and godliness. David was wise because he *inquired of the LORD*. He probably asked Abiathar to use the *Urim and Thummim*.
- David had two great reasons: the command of God, and the need of the people. David was willing to spend himself, to endanger himself and his men, so obeyed the command of God, and met the need of the people.

1Sa 23:3-4 But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" [4] 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."

- Wisely, David took the words from his men into account. He wrestled with their advice, and saw that in many ways it made a lot of sense. At the same time, he knew this was an issue that had to be decided before the LORD.
- God likes to confirm His word, especially when He directs us to do something hard or unusual. This time, the LORD not only confirmed His previous command, but He also gave a promise with it!

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.

- It isn't enough to inquire of God's will even to know God's will. We must obey God's will, even when it is difficult.
- God blessed the obedience of David: *Struck them... mighty blow* . . We see that God perfectly kept His promise.

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 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 thought that **God** had blessed him and given him victory over David. It was true that God lead David to Keilah, also that this exposed David to Saul's attack. But it was not true that the LORD had *delivered him into my hand*.
- Saul is in no place to discern the will of God, because he cares nothing for the worship or service of God. Indeed, *Abiathar* the priest is with David, not Saul, and he has the things of the priesthood with him (*an ephod in his hand*). But Saul doesn't care about losing the priesthood and the true worship of God. All he cares about is getting David

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

- For war? Against whom? Against the Philistines? Edomites? Amalekites? Moabites? No, against David, the one who had served Saul faithfully, and the one whom God has anointed and blessed! Saul makes the mistake of assuming that someone is an enemy of the LORD just because they are our enemy. He wouldn't go to Keilah to save the people against the Philistines, but he would go there to try to kill David. Saul is totally motivated by self-interest.

1Sa 23:9 When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here."

- David was in a bad place. But it was because the LORD led him there. Some might say "I told You this would happen!" to God. Instead, David did the right thing - he inquired of the LORD again!

1Sa 23:10 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.

- David's address to God is solemn and reverent. Twice he calls God the **Lord God of Israel**, and three times calls himself his **servant**. Those that address God must know their distance, and who they are speaking to.
- God knows all men better than they know themselves, knows their length, their strength, what is in them, and what they will do if they come into such and such circumstances.

1Sa 23:11 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."

- This is another example of David seeking God through the priest using the *Urim and Thummim*. The questions are presented in a "Yes or No" format, apparently that is how the *Urim and Thummim* were used.

1Sa 23:12 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."

- Why would the people of Keilah betray the man who just saved their city? No doubt, they heard of Saul's brutal massacre of the priests (*1Sa 22:16-19*), so they knew Saul would stop at nothing to kill David. David knew this.
- The word of the Lord to David was true depending on David's actions. If David would have stayed in Keilah, the word would have surely come to pass.

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.

- David could have stood and fought, and there was something in him that probably wanted to. But David knew that it was not of the LORD, and that a lot of innocent people would get hurt in the battle. So David, who was a great warrior, humbled himself and escaped. He didn't let his pride get the best of him.
- David's humble heart saved the city of Keilah. In this, he shows the same heart as the greater Son of David, Jesus, who through His humble action spared us against not only Satan, but against the righteous judgment of God. Saul directed his attack against David instead of Keilah, and so did God pour out His judgment on Jesus, the Son of David, instead of us.

1Sa 23:14 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.

- Ziph was not a comfortable or easy place to be. God guided and protected David, but it wasn't comfortable or easy. This was an essential time for God's work in David's life. He became a man after God's heart in the shepherd's field, but he became a king in the wilderness.

SUMMARY:

- We see here: **Act 13:22 And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID THE SON OF JESSE, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL DO ALL MY WILL.'**
- David inquires (prays) three times in this account! "Shall I attack the Philistines in Keilah? Will Saul come down to Keilah? Will the men of Keilah deliver me into the hand of Saul?"
- We see the exemplary evidence here of David's obedience to the Lord, even though obeying puts him and his men in extreme danger! They obey and go into battle! But the Lord delivers them!
- We again see the great contrast between David's humble and obedient heart to that prideful obsessed heart of Saul! Who are we more like?

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court.

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com

