

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Open your bibles to 1 Samuel 26,

This evening, we continue our study through the book of 1 Samuel.

The soap opera between Saul and David continues...

Last week, we actually had a week off of the drama between Saul and David –

Last week it was David that was fixed on getting vengeance after Nabal had disrespected him.

Who knows what would have happened if Abigail had not intervened upon her foolish husband's behalf.

David would have done something he would have surely regretted.

David was the one that was acting like Saul.

And was the entire point of God preparing David during this period.

He wanted to teach David to not be like Saul.

He wanted David to place his complete trust in Him.

This week the chase continues.

And David is going to get another opportunity to test God's preparation upon his life.

Let's pray...

[1Sa 26:1-25 NKJV] 1 Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?"

The Ziphites had it out for David.

We have already seen these same Ziphites betray David back in chapter 23.

These guys were the ones that told Saul that David was hiding out in the wilderness in Ziph and Saul almost captures David – except God intervened and sent a soldier to tell Saul that the Philistines were attacking and therefore Saul had to pull back his troops.

These guys are opportunist.

They are using the difficulty that was occurring between Saul and David and they are looking for ways that they can prosper from them.

They were using this to find favor with King Saul.

And because King Saul doesn't have the relationship with God, he is unable to discern this and he allows them to stir that envy and jealousy within him once again.

2 Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph.

The last time we saw Saul, two chapters ago – he was deeply remorseful after hearing the voice of David.

Remember, David spares Saul's life in the cave – as Saul goes in to go to the bathroom and David cuts a piece of his robe off to demonstrate that if he really wanted to kill Saul – he could have.

Let's turn back to chapter 24 -

[1Sa 24:16-18 NKJV] 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. 17 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.

And at the end of that chapter Saul simply goes back home. He acknowledges that David indeed will one day become king – and here we have Saul once again chasing after David.

The remorse had worn off – he was no longer sorry and the envy and jealousy was stirred up again within him.

3 And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which [is] opposite Jeshimon, by the road. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. 4 David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul had indeed come. 5 So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Now Saul lay

within the camp, with the people encamped all around him. 6 Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to **Abishai the son of Zeruiah**, brother of Joab, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you."

Unlike last time when David was caught by surprise – David was ready for Saul this time.

David knew that Saul was coming for him.

He sent spies to keep track of Saul's location.

David, through these spies- he knew the sleeping arrangements in the camp as Saul slept in the middle

surrounded by his 3000 men so that they would be able to protect him.

You see, the last time that David and Saul came face to face, Saul came to David.

This time, we are going to see David actively seeking out Saul.

Abishai is David's nephew.

And later on, Abishai becomes a significant figure in David's kingdom as he leads David's army.

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him.

Abner's main responsibility is to protect the king at all cost.

He is the commander of the army.

Yet David and Abishai are able to walk through all the sleeping men and come to Saul where he has his famous spear next to him – the one that apparently he can't seem to hit anybody with.

8 Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not [have to strike] him a second time!"

In chapter 24, when Saul walks into the cave, David's men encouraged him to kill Saul right then and there. That it was God delivering Saul into his hands.

Of course, David refuses.

Here we have a similar situation. Abishai is encouraging David to kill Saul – the difference is that this time, Abishai is offering to do it for David.

Give me a chance David – I will do the deed quickly.

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?" 10 David said furthermore, "[As] the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish. 11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that [are] by his head, and let us go."

David once again refuses to take personal vengeance, especially against the ruler anointed by God.

He said that anyone who would kill the king will not be guiltless.

Saul is going to die when the Lord decides that it is time for Saul to die.

Church, this is what sets David apart.

You see, if David had taken vengeance on Saul – it would have revealed his lack of trust in God.

He would have been exactly like Saul.

And I believe that this time of preparation that he spends in the wilderness was for that very reason. To teach David not to be like Saul.

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water [by] Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew [it] or awoke. For they [were] all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

David would not kill Saul, but he did take the spear and the jug of water as evidence that he had the opportunity to kill Saul.

Probably, David noticed that a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them all and knew there was a reason for it.

You see, it wasn't that David and Abishai were sneaky – God was watching over David and putting things in place so that he would make the right decision.

13 Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance [being] between

them. 14 And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Do you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered and said, "Who [are] you, calling out to the king?" 15 So David said to Abner, "[Are] you not a man? And who [is] like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king. 16 "This thing that you have done [is] not good. [As] the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear [is], and the jug of water that [was] by his head."

As on the previous occasion, David then called out to let the people know what had happened.

This time, he finds a hill a good distance away and called out to the army of Saul.

And he began by calling out Abner – the commander of the army of Saul.

“Hey Abner – someone went in to the camp to kill your king and you failed to protect him – you’re not doing your job”

And because David had Saul’s spear and the water jug that were by his head – it provided the vidence that indeed someone had come close enough to Saul in order to kill him.

So why did David go after Abner???

The point was not so much to criticize Abner as it was to compare his conduct to David’s.

You see, Abner was supposed to be a servant sworn to protect the king – yet he had failed.

But in contrast, the king viewed David as his enemy, yet David is the one who protected the king.

By contrasting his own conduct to that of the king's chief protector – David was once again showing that he was no enemy to the king.

David implies by his statement that he cares more about King Saul than Abner does.

17 Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, "[Is] that your voice, my son David?" David said, "[It is] my voice, my lord, O king." 18 And he said, "Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil [is] in my hand? 19 "Now therefore, please, let my

lord the king hear the words of his servant: **If the LORD has stirred you up against me**, let Him accept an offering. **But if [it is] the children of men**, [may] they [be] cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.'

After Saul recognizes David's voice, David challenges Saul why he was pursuing David: What had David done to deserve this treatment from Saul?

And he makes two suggestions to why Saul was pursuing him.

Is God making you do this?

Is it your own men that are convincing you to come after me?

David knew very well that the LORD or other men had not stirred up Saul but that it came from Saul's own bitterness, his own carnality, and his own jealousy. But he offered these suggestions to Saul to give him an easier way to repent.

20 "So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD. For the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

David concludes his appeal to Saul by making the request to Saul to not kill him.

Don't waste your time on my Saul – I am insignificant.

That is why David uses the two metaphors of the flea and the partridge.

Hunting partridges (quails) in the mountain was unnecessary as they were more readily available closer to home – it's a waste of time.

This is what Saul is doing as he pursues David – he is wasting his time going after someone who is insignificant when he could be better serving the people focused on other things.

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly."

Once again – we have an admission of guilt from Saul.

But is the admission of guilt out of sorrow – or is it because he is being genuine and wants to repent???

He says the right things –

But unfortunately, he was not sincere in what he said.

Saul knew and understood that he did wrong, but he didn't repent from his sins.

He didn't come to God and asked for God's forgiveness for his sins.

Would God forgive him if he came to God with a contrite and broken heart? You can bet your life on it.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Repentance takes more than a confession of sins, but it requires turning away from it.

How many times did Saul claim that he had sinned against God? But he truly didn't

turn away from any one of them.

God knows exactly what we think in our hearts.

We might be able to fool the people around us with our theatrical repentance which is nothing more than remorse which is being sorry that we got caught. But God sees us through with His infinite wisdom.

God says that He will not despise a contrite heart and broken spirit.

Turn with me to Psalm 51,

Psalm 51:16-17 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The

sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.

David wrote Psalm 51 after his sin was exposed by Nathan –

He responded by repenting -

That is the biggest difference between Saul sinning and David sinning.

22 And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it.

23 "May the LORD repay every man [for] his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into [my] hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. 24

"And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the

LORD, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation." 25
Then Saul said to David, "[May] you [be] blessed, my
son David! You shall both do great things and also still
prevail." So David went on his way, and Saul returned to
his place.

David, in his kindness, proceeds to give Saul back the same
spear that Saul had tried to kill him with.

All David asks in return from God is the same kindness that
he has demonstrated Saul though out this episode in his life.

By the way, this is the last time that Saul and David
meet.

[1Sa 27:1-12 NKJV] 1 And David said in his heart, "Now I
shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. [There is]
nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape

to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand."

David, David, David...

In the last chapter, David showed restraint, he showed humility, he showed courage.

In this chapter, he is showing the opposite.

Notice how the chapter starts off – David said in his heart – he is no longer in communion with the Lord, he is listening to his flesh and trying to figure a way from not dyeing at the hands of Saul – even though God had already anointed him to be the next king.

What was his solution, I will go live with the enemies of Israel.

2 Then David arose and went over with the six hundred men who [were] with him to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. 3 So David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each man with his household, [and] David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's widow.

This is not the first time that David fled to live among the Philistines, it was in chapter 21 that he went into Gath carrying Goliath's sword and the people didn't want anything to do with him.

But here he goes back to Gath and he takes his 600 men and their families along.

So we see the effects of his decision as how others are going to be exposed to the pagan customs that occurred in the land of the Philistines.

4 And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more. 5 Then David said to Achish, "If I have now found favor in your eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?" 6 So Achish gave him Ziklag that day. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day. 7 Now the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was one full year and four months.

Initially, the plan to go to Gath worked. Saul stopped pursuing David.

Even Saul knew that it was a bad idea to go to the land of the enemy.

The problem with David going in to Gath was that he started to compromise with the enemy instead of trusting in the Lord.

I asked you to make a note of David referring to himself as King Achish's servant???

David, the anointed future king of Israel, called himself the "servant" of Achish, his enemy.

This year and a half is going to be one of the darkest periods in David's spiritual life.

Not one of his psalms is written during this time period.

Because he was not walking with the Lord – he was living among the enemy.

8 And David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. For those [nations] were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt. 9

Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish.

So what did David and his men do for the year and a half that he was in Gath – they raided. They killed the inhabitants of the lands and they took their possessions.

This doesn't seem like something a man after God's own heart should be doing right???

Even though he initially goes after those that were Israel's enemies – he still was not being directed by God.

He wasn't fighting wars on God's behalf – he was fighting wars on his wallet's behalf.

10 Then Achish would say, "Where have you made a raid today?" And David would say, "Against the southern [area] of Judah, or against the southern [area] of the Jerahmeelites, or against the southern [area] of the Kenites."

David lies when he is questioned by the King of Gath about those that he raided.

He is not lying because he is ashamed of what he has done, he is lying because he wants to find favor in the eyes on the King of Gath.

11 David would save neither man nor woman alive, to bring [news] to Gath, saying, "Lest they should inform on us, saying, 'Thus David did.' " And thus [was] his behavior all the time he dwelt in the country of the Philistines. 12 So Achish believed David, saying, "He has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; therefore he will be my servant forever."

The reason that David was killing everyone he raided was so that they wouldn't reveal his sin to anyone.

And this is exactly what David is going to do – during another dark chapter in his life – when he conspires to kill Uriah to cover up his sin against Bathsheba.

The root of that sin began when he started to kill these individuals in an attempt to keep them quiet.

Achish figures that David has become a traitor to Israel and therefore doesn't find him to be a threat anymore.

When we seek to compromise and dwell with among the enemy, Satan will leave us alone – we are no threat to him. His objective has already been achieved.

But whenever, we start doing things unto the Lord and growing spiritually, that is when we will most likely be attacked.

Let's pray...

