LEARNING GODLY PRINCIPLES FROM THE STORY OF



THE SHEPHERD BOY

Berea Christian Bible Study Guide

Learning Godly Principles from the story of David – the Shepherd Boy



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God recognizes faithful service as the primary basis for promotion. There are no shortcuts to success in any area of life's worthwhile endeavors. It is always a matter of hard work, perseverance, and patience. David's diligence as a young shepherd built the foundation for the strength of character, he displayed in becoming king of Israel. The years he spent in solitude out on the hillsides with his father's flocks provided him time and opportunity to perfect the skills that led him to become "a man after God's own heart." David did things to the best of his abilities. Because of that, God elevated him from obscurity to universal acclaim. David's life serves as a powerful model to teach us the importance of living for God with all our might. Faithfulness stands out and speaks for itself. Too many Christians waste time trying to be great, when the secret to greatness is faithfulness. Being a shepherd may have been an isolated and unsung job, but the Lord knew exactly where David was. David was faithful even when unobserved by others. Jesus declared, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in **much**" (Luke 16:10). The inner potential for greatness we later see displayed openly in the life of David developed during the days of his faithfulness in places of lonely solitude.

BIBLE STUDY

(1 Samuel 17 NLT)

(4) Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! (5) He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. (6) He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. (7) The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield. ...(45) David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. (46) **Today** the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! (47) And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD's battle, and he will give you to us!" (48) As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. (49) Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. (50) So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. (51) Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.



DAVID'S EARLY LIFE

We know very little about David's early life except for David's own testimony of killing a bear and a lion. (1 Samuel 17:37 KJV - David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear...) Some historians (but not all) believe that the original accounts of David written by the prophets (seers) Samuel, Gad, and Nathan may have been lost. (1 Chronicles 29:29 KJV - Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer) (1 Samuel 9:9 NLT - In those days if people wanted a message from God, they would say, "Let's go and ask the seer," for prophets used to be called seers.)

We do know that Jesse was David's father and was of a great age in the days of Saul. Jesse is believed to have had seven or eight sons, of whom David was the youngest; but one may have died before David came to the throne (Read 1 Sam_16:10-11, 1 Sam_17:12-14, 1 Chron_2:3-15) David's great grandparents were Boaz (a man of great wealth and influence from Bethlehem) and Ruth (Ruth 2:1-4, Matt 1:5-6).

Questions from the Lesson

- 1. David was faithful even when unobserved by others. Why is this character trait important?
- Explain the following Scripture.
 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much - Luke 16:10
- 3. **1 Chronicles 29:29** speaks of the books of Samuel, Nathan, and Gad. What do most Bible historians and commentators say about these books?

A. DAVID FAITHFULLY KEPT THE SHEEP

The people of Israel were primarily farming folk. They kept sheep, goats, and cattle to provide wool, hides, meat, milk, butter, and cheese. Shepherds were either less significant family members or men hired by several farmers to watch over large, combined flocks. Farmers who could afford it often hired foreign workers to care for the sheep.

Shepherding in Old Testament times was a rigorous and lonely lifestyle. There was no opportunity for a social life or normal human contact outside of the shepherd community. Shepherds spent their days and nights out in the elements without human comforts and companionship that others took for granted. The Israelite religious community looked down on shepherds because they could not participate in the religious rituals they considered necessary to be clean. They could never observe the Sabbath properly because shepherding was a 24/7, 365day-a-year job. Shepherding was also a responsible job. Bears and lions would even attack any human standing in the way of a delicious meal, so the shepherd had to be brave, resourceful, and fierce if both he and the sheep were to survive. David, the youngest of Jesse's sons was a young shepherd who protected his father's flock from predators on more than one occasion.

When David received the call of God, he was faithfully tending to his father's business. Every child of God has been called to be about his heavenly Father's business. We must also be about our Father's business. If we will busy ourselves with our Father's work today, He will take care of our future tomorrow. **"A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men" (Proverbs 18:16).**

Questions from the Lesson

- 4. Who was usually chosen to be a shepherd?
- 5. Was the occupation of a shepherd a glamorous job?
- 6. The lesson states that bears and lions would even attack any standing in the way of a delicious meal. If this was the case, then why do you believe David the youngest of Jesse's sons was chosen for this job?
- 7. Every child of God has been called to be about his heavenly Father's business. What does it mean to be about our Father's business?
- Explain the following Scripture.
 A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men - Proverbs 18:16

B. DAVID, A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Chuck Swindoll, in his book David: A Man of Passion and Destiny, described this youngest son of Jesse: "The only one in all of the Scriptures to be called 'a man after God's own heart,' this single individual is mentioned more than any other Old Testament character in the pages of the New Testament. Poet, musician, courageous warrior, and national statesman, David distinguished himself as one of God's greatest men. In battle, he modeled invincible confidence. In decisions, he judged with wisdom and equity. In loneliness, he wrote with transparent vulnerability and quiet trust. In friendship, he was loyal to the end. Whether a humble shepherd boy or an obscure musician before King Saul, he remained faithful and trustworthy. Even in his promotion to the highest position in the land, David modeled integrity and humility."

Because of David's strength of character and faithfulness in small matters, God endorsed and promoted him. We should never look down on anyone for the job he performs as long as he does it to the best of his ability. We should learn from David's life and aspire to greatness in God's kingdom by following his example of wholehearted servitude. Let us live by this motto: **"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might"** (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Questions from the Lesson

- Explain the following Scripture.
 ...People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart - 1 Samuel 16:7
- 10. Explain the following Scripture. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might - Ecclesiastes 9:10
- 11. Explain the following Scripture.

(Matthew 6 AMPC) (4) So that your deeds of charity may be in secret; and your <u>Father</u> <u>Who sees in secret will reward you openly</u>.
(6) But when you pray, go into your [most] private room, and, closing the door, pray to your Father, Who is in secret; and <u>your</u> <u>Father, Who sees in secret, will reward you in the open</u>. (18) So that your Father, Who sees in secret; and <u>your Father, Who sees in secret</u>, who sees in secret; and <u>your Father, Who sees in secret</u>, will reward you in the open

C. THE REJECTION OF KING SAUL (DAVID'S PREDECESSOR)

Saul was chosen to be king to save Israel from the oppression of the Philistines (**1 Sam 9:15-16**). Samuel (the priest, prophet, and judge) took a vial of oil, poured it upon Saul's head, and anointed him to be king (prince over God's heritage) in a semi-private service. The Bible also records that Saul received another heart from God and spoke under divine inspiration among the prophets at the hill of Gibeah shortly after being anointed (**1 Sam 10:1-11**). Saul would later be made king openly in Gilgal by Samuel in **1 Sam 11:15**. Saul was given specific instructions by Samuel. "Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do - 1 Sam 10:8 NIV". However, when Samuel did not arrive at the expected time the people began to scatter, and Saul made a very foolish and impulsive decision to offer the burnt offering himself (a deed forbidden by non-priests). When Samuel arrives, he rebukes Saul for what he had done. Ironically, when Saul hears the consequences of his disobedience, he does not show any remorse and does not repent when given the opportunity. Saul only gives excuses for his disobedience (1 Sam 13:11-15).

(1 Sam 13:11-14 KJV)

(11) Samuel said, What have you done? Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines were assembled at Michmash, (12) I thought, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord. So I forced myself to offer a burnt offering.
(13) And Samuel said to Saul, You have done foolishly! You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God which He commanded you; for the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever;

(14) But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

Questions from the Lesson

12. Discuss the same mistake Samuel made that Eli the priest made before him?

(1 Samuel 8 Amplified Bible) (1) And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons as judges over Israel.
(2) Now the name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judging in Beersheba. (3) His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

- 13. Who requested a king, and why did they want one (**1 Sam 8:1-7**)?
- 14. Why was Saul chosen to be king **(1 Samuel 9:15-16**)?
- 15. Did they reject Samuel (1 Sam 8:6-9)? What was God's warning concerning a king (1 Sam 8:10-22)?
- 16. Who anointed Saul to be king?
- 17. What miraculous thing happened to Saul after he was anointed (**1 Samuel 10:5-12**)?
- 18. Samuel told Saul to go to Gilgal and do what before fighting the Philistines (**1 Samuel 10:5-12**)?
- 19. How and why did Saul disobey these instructions (**1 Samuel 13:8-13)**?
- 20. When Saul gets rebuked and hears the consequences, how does he respond?
- 21. What were the consequences of Saul's disobedience?

Once again Samuel gives Saul a command in **1 Sam 15**. He instructed Saul to go to the Amalekites and slay every man, woman, infant, suckling, and all the livestock (to spare nothing). As commanded, Saul and the people destroyed all the Amalekites and the undesirable livestock with the sword. However, they spared Agag the king, and the best of the livestock. The Lord tells the prophet Samuel of Saul's disobedience and His regret for making Saul, king. Samuel becomes grieved, angry, and cries out to God all that night.

The next morning Samuel arises to confront Saul. When they meet Saul salutes Samuel,

"Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD – 1 Sam 15:13 KJV". Samuel questions Saul about the bleating of the sheep and the cattle lowing. Saul states again that he had indeed obeyed God's command, but the people kept the best livestock to sacrifice to the Lord. Samuel rebukes Saul by stating that obedience is better than sacrifice, rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Samuel also says that the Lord had rejected him as king.

Saul admits that he had sinned against the commandment of the Lord because he feared the people and obeyed their voices. Saul asks Samuel to forgive his sin and to return to honor him before the elders of his people and before Israel. Once again we see Saul hearing the consequences of his sin but not showing any remorse or offering repentance when given the opportunity - he only wants to be honored before the elders and the people (**1 Sam 15:25-31**).

(1 Samuel 15:26-29 KJV)

(26) And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.
(27) And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.
(28) And Samuel said unto him, The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour

of thine, that is better than thou. (29) And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

Saul's insecurity (fear of what the people thought of him) led him to become arrogant and prideful (a desire to be honored/elevated before the people). Saul was more obsessed with the desire to be honored/elevated before the people and others more than fulfilling the work and the Word of the Lord. Saul's insecurity, pride, and rebellion cost him the kingdom. The Bible records that Saul spent the rest of his days in utter madness (overcome with fear, anger, jealousy, and depression).

One could only imagine what the outcome would have been if Saul had only humbled himself and repented after hearing the judgment(s) from God. Could his sincere repentance reverse the judgment(s) of God as it had done for Hezekiah (**2 Kings 20:1-11**), Ahab (**1 Kings 21:17-29**), and Ninevah (**Jonah 3:1-10**)? Saul had been chosen and anointed to conquer and save Israel from the oppression of the Philistines. However, because of his rebellion against the voice of God and later seeking the counsel of a familiar spirit, the Philistines would conquer him.



Questions from the Lesson

- 22. Samuel told Saul to go to the Amalekites and do what (**1 Samuel 15:2-3**)?
- 23. How and why did Saul disobey these instructions (**1 Samuel 15:8-9**)?
- 24. How did Samuel find out that Saul had disobeyed God (**1 Samuel 15:10-13**)?
- 25. When Saul gets rebuked and hears the consequences, how does he respond?
- 26. What were the consequences of Saul's disobedience?
- 27. Explain the following Scripture.

(1 Samuel 15:22-23 AMP) (22) Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great a delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obedience to the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed [is better] than the fat of rams. (23) "For rebellion is as [serious as] the sin of divination (fortunetelling), And disobedience is as [serious as] false religion and idolatry...

- 28. What would eventually happen to Saul?
- 29. Do you believe Saul's outcome would have been different if he had only humbled himself and repented after hearing the judgment(s) from God?
- 30. Many times God wants the proper response (*repentance* from sin or the *proper reaction*).
 - Discuss the story of the Canaanite woman's daughter that was vexed by the devil. Jesus stated it is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs. She responded by saying that the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.
 - Discuss the story of Jacob wrestling with the heavenly host. The Angel of the Lord (or the Lord) told Jacob to let Him go. Jacob responded by saying I won't let you go until You blessed me.

Are there times in your life where you walked away or let go too soon from a blessing you needed from God?

D. GOD OBSERVED DAVID'S FAITHFULNESS

(1 Samuel 16 AMP)

(1) The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve for Saul, when I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have chosen a king for Myself among his sons."
(2) But Samuel said, "How can I go? When Saul hears about it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer from the herd with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'

When God sent Samuel to Jesse's house to anoint one of his sons to be the next king of Israel, the appearance of the older boys pleased Samuel and he expected God would choose one of them. But God rejected the older brothers. (1 Samuel 16:6-7 NLT (6) When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the Lord's anointed!" (7) But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.") Finally, Samuel asked, "Are these all your children?" Jesse had not even summoned the youngest, the insignificant shepherd boy, but God saw something in him that others, including his family members, had not yet seen—his pure heart a heart that belonged to God. "The LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people" - I Samuel 13:14.

Samuel told Jesse to send someone to call David in from the fields. When David arrived he probably was



surprised to see the prophet there and had no idea how the next few moments would change his life. But God had seen David's faithfulness in small things and decided to grant him the opportunity to serve on a greater scale. A principle is evident here: the door to opportunity is marked "faithfulness." (See Matthew 25:21.)

Questions from the Lesso



- 31. Explain the following Scripture.For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" - I Samuel 16:7.
- 32. Why do you believe Jesse never sent for David when the prophet came to see his sons?
- 33. Did Samuel (the prophet) originally know which son God had chosen to be the next king or did he just go out of obedience?
- 34. Discuss the following statement. We may not receive revelation about our next steps until the previous steps have been completed!
- 35. Did Samuel want to originally anoint another king?
- 36. Why didn't Samuel want to go to Jesse's house?
- 37. Discuss the following statement. Even though Samuel was distraught, he did not let his emotions get in the way of his obedience.
- 38. Discuss the following statements by Richard M. Davis (Developing a Heart for God) (http://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/navigators/bin/20 08/Summer/01-AHeartforGod.pdf)
 - a. First, we must cultivate an attitude of repentance. Our relationship with God begins through repentance and it is improved in the same way
 - b. Second, we must avail ourselves of His grace
 - c. Third, we must spend time with Him regularly, and make room in devotions for Him to talk to us
 - d. Fourth, we must be confident of His character

- e. <u>Fifth</u>, we must make it a priority to worship Him continually
- f. <u>Sixth</u>, we must pursue Him with passion. Not just admire Him, but thirst after Him
- g. Seventh, we must be forgiving people. God has forgiven us; we must therefore forgive others
- h. Eighth, we must obey the Lord's commands. If we love Him, we will be glad to do what He asks"
- 39. Explain the following Scripture.

(Matthew 25:21 AMPC) His master said to him, Well done, you upright (honorable, admirable) and faithful servant! You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little; I will put you in charge of much. Enter into and share the joy (the delight, the blessedness) Will God say well which your master enjoys. done if we have not done well?

40. Explain Moses' request to God. What was Moses seeking from God?

(Exodus 33:13 AMPC) Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You [progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, perceiving and recognizing and understanding more strongly and clearly] and that I may find favor in Your sight...

E. THE LORD'S ENDORSEMENT

David was as handsome as his older brothers, but God was more interested in what He saw in the heart of Jesse's youngest son. David had spent most of his time in the fields without human companionship, but he had communed with God. Wherever he went, he took his harp and sang sweet songs of praise. If we want God's favor, we must spend time communing with Him, searching His Word, and serving Him faithfully and cheerfully. David's example shows us the way to find spiritual promotion and honor.

Learning Godly Principles from the story of David - the Shepherd Boy



(1 Samuel 16:12-13 KJV) (12) And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. (13) Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

Samuel did not anoint David with just a dab of oil but poured enough on David's head to run down over his face, body, and clothes. As Jesse's family watched, God gave the most insignificant son a most significant blessing that set him apart from the others from that day forward. The anointing assured David that God's promise of kingship would someday come true.

The Spirit of the Lord came upon David after he was anointed, providing hope and inspiration during the long years that separated his anointing from his actual coronation as king. David treasured God's Spirit and presence in his life. In **Psalm 51:10-12**, David wrote, "O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy spirit from me." The Holy Spirit is the greatest treasure God gives to human beings. Having the Holy Spirit in one's life is literally having Christ in us, the hope of glory. (See **Colossians 1:27**.)

Questions from the Lesson

- 41. How was David endorsed as the new king?
- 42. Why was the Spirit of the Lord necessary for this endorsement? <u>Explain the following Scriptures</u>.

(Ephesians 6:10-11 AMP) (10) In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him] and in the power of His [boundless] might. (11) Put on the full armor of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

(Luke 10:17-19 AMPC) (17) The seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name! ...(19) Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.

 <u>Discuss the following statement</u>.
 Anointed means to consecrate or commission someone into their calling (Leviticus 8:30) It is a symbol of imparting a blessing.

(Leviticus 8:30 Amplified Bible) So Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar and sprinkled it on Aaron and his garments, and also on his sons and their garments with him; so Moses consecrated Aaron and his garments, and his sons and his sons' garments with him.

(Exo 29:7) Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him.

(1 Samuel 10:1 KJV) Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

- 44. Do you have to be consecrated for offices today?
- 45. <u>Explain the following statement</u>. The Holy Spirit is the greatest treasure God gives to human beings.
- 46. Why did David write, cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me?

- 47. Discuss how old was David when he was anointed and how long did it take to become king after being anointed?
 - a. Scripture gives us stronger clues regarding David's age when he fought Goliath

(1 Samuel 17:33 KJV) And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

(1 Samuel 17:33 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition) And Saul said to David, You are not able to go to fight against this Philistine. You are only an adolescent, and he has been a warrior from his youth.

b. The fact that David was not yet serving in the army tells us he was definitely under 20

(Num 1:3 New Living Translation) twenty years old or older who are able to go to war. You and Aaron must register the troops,

c. That leaves four brothers between them and David, strengthening the notion that David was a teenager when he fought Goliath.

(Num 14:29-31 New Living Translation)
(29) You will all drop dead in this wilderness! Because you complained against me, every one of you who is twenty years old or older and was included in the registration will die.
(30) You will not enter and occupy the land I swore to give you. The only exceptions will be Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. (31) "You said your children would be carried off as plunder. Well, I will bring them safely into the land, and they will enjoy what you have despised. d. David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years" (2 Sam 5:4).

(2 Samuel 5:4 King James Version) David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

- e. David took the throne of Israel at about the same age that Jesus would begin His earthly ministry (**Luke 3:23**).
- f. Scripture says that Joseph was 17 years old when his brothers sold him to the Ishmaelites (Genesis 37:2). By the time he was released from prison and appointed as head over Egypt, Joseph was 30 years of age (Genesis 41:46). Therefore, thirteen years passed from the time Joseph was sold by his brothers to the time he left prison.
- 48. What is the significance of being appointed at 30 in Scripture?
- 49. <u>Discuss the following statement</u>, is it true or false? Scripture never tells us that David, the elders, or David's family knew the purpose of this anointing!

(1 Samuel 16 AMP) (1) The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve for Saul, when I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have chosen a king for Myself among his sons." (2) <u>But</u> <u>Samuel said, "How can I go? When Saul hears</u> <u>about it, he will kill me." And the Lord said,</u> <u>"Take a heifer from the herd with you and</u> <u>say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord</u>.'

- Samuel told God he was afraid to anoint a new king so he told the elders he was coming to make a sacrifice. Samuel invited Jesse and his sons. Eventually, he anointed David.
- If Saul had known a new king had been anointed then why didn't Saul go after and kill David and Samuel?



Saul's anointing - (1 Samuel 10:1 KJV) Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?)

David's anointing - (1 Samuel 16:12-13 KJV) (12) And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. (13) Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.)

The Scriptures do not tell us that Samuel told David the purpose of this anointing (possibly out of fear of Saul).

F. THE SPIRIT'S DEPARTURE AND AN EVIL SPIRIT'S ENTRANCE

God's presence rested upon David, but it abandoned King Saul. When God left Saul he suddenly felt cut off, hopeless, and depressed. Only in the Prince of Peace can one find peace. Saul's misery, emptiness, and despair occurred when his repeated disobedience caused God to forsake him. As God forsook Saul, an evil spirit moved in to plague him. How tragic! From the heights of knowing and feeling the strength of God's Spirit, Saul plummeted to the depths of demonic torment. Demonic spirits show no kindness or mercy but delight in tormenting human souls. The evil spirit had not taken full possession of Saul, but it oppressed him and made him miserable. The king's servants suggested that soothing music would help Saul regain his composure and calm his troubled mind. In an age when there was no recorded music, they would have to find a live musician who could be available day or night to calm the storm raging in Saul's mind.

"Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him" Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep" (I Samuel 16:18-19).

Where would they find this great musician? Staging concerts from city to city? He had already been anointed king. Was he selecting his transition team? No. David had returned to the sheepfold with oil still dripping from his hair and garments. Just as Jessie knew where to find his son when Samuel called for him, Saul's servant knew where they would find him. "Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep" (**I Samuel 16:19**).

Questions from the Lesson

- 50. What happened to Saul after the Spirit left him?
- 51. What is the difference between oppression and possession of an evil spirit?
- 52. How did David's name come up in the conversation with King Saul regarding a musician?
- 53. Saul was now in a backslidden state. Why do you believe God just didn't cut him off from being king?
- 54. Where did the evil spirit come from that vexed (tormented) Saul?

55. <u>Discuss the following Scriptures</u>. Job 1:6,12 , 1 Kings 22:21-30 2 Thessalonians 2:11 , Judges 9:23

- 56. <u>Discuss the following statements</u>. The devil is God's devil and uses him and other evil spirits to accomplish His Will.
 - a. If Saul had not been vexed by an evil spirit David would have not been needed to play in the kingdom!
 - b. God hardened the hearts of nations against Israel just so Israel could spoil them!



GOD RAISED UP ENEMIES AGAINST ISRAEL JUST SO THE ISRAELITES COULD CONQUER **AND SPOIL THEM!**

(Numbers 21:21-32 KJV) (21) And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, (22) Let me pass through thy land: we saving, will not turn into the fields, or into the vineyards; we will not drink of the waters of the well: but we will go along by the king's high way, until we be past thy borders. (23) And Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

(Deu 2:30 KJV) But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.

(Deuteronomy 3 KJV) (1) Then we turned, and went up the way to Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. (2) And the Lord said unto me, Fear him not: for I will deliver him, and all his people, and his land, into thy hand; and thou shalt do unto him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon. (3) So the Lord our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people: and we smote him until none was left to him (4) And we took all his cities at that remaining. time, there was not a city which we took not from them, threescore cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. (5) All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwalled towns a great many. (6) And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city. (7) But all the cattle, and the spoil of the cities, we took for a prey to ourselves.

(Numbers 21:33-35 New Living Translation) (33) Then they turned and marched up the road to Bashan, but King Og of Bashan and all his people attacked them at Edrei. (34) The Lord said to Moses, "Do not be afraid of him, for I have handed him over to you, along with all his people and his land. Do the same to him as you did to King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in (35) And Israel killed King Og, his Heshbon." sons, and all his subjects; not a single survivor remained. Then Israel occupied their land.

57. Discuss the following statement. David entered the kingdom with a GIFT and a GOOD NAME!

(Proverbs 22:1 Amplified Bible) A good name [earned by honorable behavior, godly wisdom, moral courage, and personal integrity] is more desirable than great riches; And favor is better than silver and gold.

(Proverbs 22:1 New Living Translation) Choose a good reputation over great riches; being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.

(Proverbs 18:16 New Living Translation) Giving a gift can open doors; it gives access to important people!

(Proverbs 18:16 Amplified Bible) A man's gift [given in love or courtesy] makes room for him And brings him before great men.

- 58. Discuss the following statement. Your gift will bring you before great men but your character will keep you there - Pastor Sherly Brady
- 59. Discuss the following statement. Only in the Prince of Peace can one truly find joy and peace!

(Isaiah 26:3 New Living Translation) You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!



(Philippians 4:6-7 Amplified Bible)

(6) Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. (7) And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].

(Nehemiah 8:10 Amplified Bible)

(10) Then Ezra said to them, "Go [your way], eat the rich festival food, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be worried, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and your stronghold."

G. A QUALIFIED YOUNG MAN

David fit the need perfectly. His qualifications made him the number one applicant for the job.

- 1. Son of Jesse.
 - He came from a well-respected family.
- 2. Talented musician.
 - He not only played well, but he wrote his own songs.
- 3. A brave man.
 - He showed strength and courage in times of danger.
- 4. A wise man.
 - He was mature beyond his years.
- 5. The Lord's presence was with him.
 - He was obviously a spiritual man.

Whether or not other people are watching, we should do everything wholeheartedly, as David did. That is the biblical mandate. It is the gauge by which God measures our character.

(Matthew 6 AMPC (4) So that your deeds of charity may be in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you openly. (6) But when you pray, go into your [most] private room, and, closing the door, pray to your Father, Who is in secret; and your Father, Who sees in secret, will reward you in the open. (18) So

that your fasting may not be noticed by men but by your Father, Who sees in secret; and your Father, Who sees in secret, will reward you in the open)

King Saul's request for Jesse to allow David to leave the flocks and come to work for him in the palace posed both an honor and a hardship for Jesse. Jesse needed David as a shepherd. If he were not watching the flocks, someone else would have to do it. Perhaps he would have to hire another servant to take David's place, which would be expensive. On the other hand, David's presence in the palace would give Jesse's family prestige. Jesse stood to benefit from this vicarious association with the ruler of the land. Jesse did the politically correct thing by responding positively to the king's request. He even made sure David did not arrive in the royal presence empty-handed. He sent gifts to King Saul to show his respect and appreciation for the position he had created for his son. "And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight" (I Samuel 16:21-22).

Questions from the Lesson



- 60. When David initially entered the palace, how did Saul treat him?
- 61. How would David's presence in the palace benefit and hurt Jesse?

H. ANOINTED MUSIC DISPELS FEAR

The evil spirit that tormented Saul made him paranoid and emotionally consumed with irrational fears and jealousy. One thing definitely helped Saul, and that was the sweet and gentle refrains of David as he sang and played his harp. David's melodies helped give Saul some relief from the evil spirit of irrational fears. Soothing music calms the troubled soul. Anointed music dispels fear even today. Songs of praise and victory encourage the hearts of the people and give them hope.



"And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand; so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him" (I Samuel 16:23)

God's Spirit calms and refreshes the human soul. Where God is, there is no reason to fear or dread. His presence brings a sense of peace, safety, and calm. Words of praise are like an invitation to God's presence. "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3). Truly anointed music glorifies and elevates the Lord and makes evil spirits uncomfortable and fearful. This is because they know who the Lord of glory truly is, and because they know Him, they fear Him. (See James 2:19) David's anointed music gave honor and glory to the Lord and dispelled the evil spirits that plaqued Saul. Just as God refuses to dwell in an unclean vessel, neither will evil spirits coexist with God's holy presence. They must flee.

Ancient armies often would rely upon musicians and singers to raise the sound of music over the battlefields. (See II Chron. 20:21-23) This encouraged the soldiers to fight more valiantly. Martial drum music has been used to set a cadence for marching and advancing into battle by armies around the world. The drummers' and buglers' playing stimulates a sense of urgency in the soldiers to forget their fears and "Charge!"

Questions from the Lesson

- 62. How does music affect the atmosphere?
- 63. Why did ancient armies raise the sound of music over the physical battlefields?
- 64. Why do churches raise the sound of music over the spiritual battlefields?
- 65. Discuss the following statement. Fear attacked Saul's mind (sound judgment) and his imagination took control. It produced false perceptions, phobias, anxieties-stress, and depression.

- 66. Explain the following Scripture. Psalm 22:3 KJV - But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.
- 67. Explain the following Scripture.

(2 Timothy 1:7 AMPC) For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.

I. GOD'S ORCHESTRATION OF **CIRCUMSTANCES**

We are often confused over finding the will of God. When things go well, we do not guestion our relationship with God. But when trouble or illness occurs, we may ask God, "Why?" "Why me?" or "Why me now?" Whether or not we understand it, God is working everything out according to His plan for our lives. The way God worked out a plan for David's life can be of great help to us. We may not always be able to see His plan for us, but we can rest assured He has one.

David developed his faith while he kept busy about his father's business. His understanding of the power in the name of the Lord did not come upon him for the first time when he faced Goliath. He related his past experiences to Saul: "Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear" (I Samuel 17:34-36). Young

Christians may find God's training program too slow and laborious, but God knows we must learn to exercise our faith before we tackle a giant. Paul cautioned Timothy concerning the selection of elders: "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil" (I Timothy 3:6)



Our Lord knows exactly what we can handle. If we extend ourselves beyond the limitations of our faith, Satan will attempt to destroy the work we have already accomplished. However, if we wait on God, He provides opportunities to test our faith little by little. And we can rest assured that He will not allow more to come upon us than we can bear. (See I **Corinthians 10:13**.)

Questions from the Lesso



- 68. Discuss the following statement. When things go well, we do not question our relationship with God. But when trouble or illness occurs, we may ask God, "Why?" "Why me?"
- 69. Discuss the following statement.

Christians may find God's training program too slow and laborious, but God knows we must learn to exercise our faith before we tackle a giant.

70. Explain the following Scripture.

(Romans 8:28 AMP) And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.

J. FACING THE GIANT

(1 Samuel 17 NLT) (1) The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephesdammim. (2) Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. (3) So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them. (4) Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! (8) Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to

come down here and fight me! (9) If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! (16) For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.

Goliath's cursing and defiance of God infected the camp of Israel with fear. Instead of fearing the Lord, they feared the enemy. David's motive in visiting the Israelites' camp was not to seek personal glory, but as a response to his father's request. "Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; and carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge" (I Samuel 17:17-18). David saw a giant confounding Saul's army and, operating in the fear of God, stepped to the front. David tells Saul that he would fight Goliath and explains to Saul the Lord delivered him from a lion and a bear and will do the same concerning this giant. David's past hardships prepared him for this current event.

Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on but said I can't go in these, I'm not used to them. David took Saul's armor off. He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistines.

Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him. David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies-the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head. As soon as David returned from killing Goliath, Abner brought him to Saul with the Philistine's head still in his hand. "Tell me about



your father, young man," Saul said. David replied, "His name is Jesse, and we live in Bethlehem."

Questions from the Lesson

- 71. According to 1 Samuel 9:16, why was Saul anointed leader over Israel?
- 72. Goliath was a champion of what country?
- 73. Why was David visiting the Israelites' camp?
- 74. Where did the Philistines gather their forces in 1 Sam. 17 (which tribe did they come (assemble) against)?
- 75. Which tribe is David from?
- 76. What is this tribe known for (Genesis 49:8–12, **Genesis 29:35**)? If this tribe is known for then why were they exhibiting FEAR?
- 77. Discuss the following statements.

The people (Israel) only followed the direction of their leader and King Saul was in a backslidden state. Discuss how did the people respond to Goliath as he taunted them for 40 days?

- No one requested / summoned Samuel (the prophet and the priest) for instructions from the Lord.
- No one offered prayer for guidance?
- No one fetched the Ark of the Covenant (symbol of the presence of God)?
- 78. Why did Saul allow David to go into battle knowing the consequences?

(1 Samuel 17:8-9 NIV) (8) Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. (9) If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us."

- 79. Discuss the following statement. David brought the Lord to the battle. He came in the Name, not his abilities or own power.
- 80. Discuss the following statement.

David tells Goliath, you come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies. We must make GOD BIG - God wants HIS NAME exalted in the earth!

Exodus 9:16 KJV And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared **throughout all the earth** - [Referring to Egyptian Pharoah and all God's signs and wonders]

- 81. Discuss the following statement. David tells Goliath "this the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will smite you and cut off your head." David entered into the battle prophesying how he wanted the battle to turn out.
- 82. Explain the following Scripture.

Proverbs 18:21 KJV Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

- 83. Discuss the following statement. After the battle, Saul asks Abner whose son is this? Recall, that David was Saul's armor bearer and Saul loved David according to 1 Samuel 16:21.
 - Saul did not know David or his capabilities, he only knew one aspect of David (a musician)
 - We must allow people to use their Godgiven gifts and not put them in boxes

84. Discuss the following statement.

GOLIATH was necessary to get David into the palace. GOLIATHS are necessary in our lives!

(1 Samuel 18 NLT) (2) From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home. ...(5) Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike.

85. Discuss the following statement.

David uses a sling and a rock (this is a weapon of choice for the tribe of Benjamin, not Judah). Interestingly, the tribe of Benjamin was known for an elite corps of slingers (**Judges 20:15-16; 1 Chronicles 12:2**), many of whom were left-handed slingers. 700 of them could each "sling a stone at a hair and not miss."

Judges 20:15-16 NLT (15) In all, 26,000 of their warriors armed with swords arrived in Gibeah to join the 700 elite troops who lived there. (16) <u>Among Benjamin's elite troops,</u> <u>700 were left-handed, and each of them</u> <u>could sling a rock and hit a target within a</u> <u>hairsbreadth without missing</u>.

1 Chronicles 12 NLT (1) The following men joined David at Ziklag while he was hiding from Saul son of Kish. They were among the warriors who fought beside David in battle. (2) <u>All of them were expert archers, and they</u> <u>could shoot arrows or sling stones with their</u> <u>left hand as well as their right. They were all</u> <u>relatives of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin.</u>

- Goliath was over nine feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet and bronze coat. He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. Goliath's armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield
- A sword would <u>not have been effective</u> in this fight (neither Saul's armor)
- David, his skill set, and past experiences made him perfect and fully capable for this fight!
- Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin and <u>may</u> also have had the same skill set as David but refused to use it.

Often time we fail to use what god has already given us (Exodus 4:2)!

86. Discuss the following statement.

Goliath walked out toward David with his <u>shield</u> <u>bearer ahead of him</u>. The moment he realized that David did not possess a sword but a sling his strategy should have changed.

 Goliath had the wrong strategy and overestimated himself (too arrogant)

We must recognize the fight we are in (be open to change strategy as God leads us)!

87. <u>Discuss the following statements</u>. Goliath walked out toward David with his <u>shield</u> <u>bearer ahead of him</u>. Either Goliath did not take his shield from his shield bearer or <u>his shield was</u> not up during the battle. We must have our

shields (shields of faith) up when we battle!

Ephesians 6:16 KJV Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Ephesians 6:16 AMP Above all, <u>lift up the</u> [protective] shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Meaning of extinguishing flaming arrows in Ephesians 6:16

Here the Greek word refers to the large Roman soldiers' shield designed to protect the entire body. It had an iron frame (some say wood) and was covered in several layers of leather. When soaked in water before a battle the shield could put out the fiery missiles thrown at them by the enemy.

FACING THE GIANT - CONTINUED

(1 Samuel 17 KJV) (50) So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. (51)Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. (53) And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents. (54) And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent. (55) And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son is this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell. (57) And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. (58) And Saul said to him. Whose son art thou, thou young man? And David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.

(1 Samuel 18 NLT)

(2) From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home. ...(5) Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike.

Before slaying Goliath, the Bible states that Saul sent for David and had become extremely fond of David when he played before him, relieving him of the tormenting evil spirit. (1 Samuel 16:18,21 KJV) (18) Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the Lord is with him. (19) Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. (21) <u>And David</u> <u>came to Saul, and stood before him: and he</u> <u>loved him greatly; and he became his</u> <u>armourbearer.</u>

After slaying Goliath, Saul trusted David and honored him with additional duties. The diligence and faithful service David exhibited on the hillsides watching over the flocks continued in the palace as a servant of the king. He served Saul wholeheartedly, which garnered the favor not only of the king but of the members of the royal family (**I** Samuel 18:1-5).

Questions from the Lesson



- <u>Discuss the following statements</u>.
 After the battle, Saul asks Abner whose son is this? Recall, that David was Saul's armor bearer and Saul loved David according to **1 Samuel 16:21.**
 - Saul <u>did not know David or his capabilities</u>, he only knew one aspect of David (a musician)
 - We must allow people to use their Godgiven gifts and not put them in boxes
 - Many times we fail to utilize the gifts/talents among us for the body of Christ
- 90. When David initially entered the palace, how did the people and the officers treat him?

K. SAUL'S ANGER, JEALOUSY, AND MADNESS

(1 Samuel 18 NLT) (6) When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and



cymbals. (7) This was their song: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!" (8) This made Saul very angry. "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!" (9) So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

One day as they returned from war with the Philistines, the women came out from all the towns dancing and singing for joy with tambourines and cymbals. As they laughed and frolicked, they said, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." The women gave more credit to David and this saying displeased and angered Saul. From that day forward Saul jealously eyed David even though David was only obeying Saul's commands and fulfilling the Lord's will to save Israel from the oppression of the Philistines.

Saul's insecurity (fear of being replaced and/or fear of being overshadowed) was intensified. Saul became more obsessed with the desire to be honored/elevated before the people and others more than fulfilling the work and the Word of the Lord. Jealousy and Fear had Saul believing that David was no longer his faithful servant whom he loved but was now conspiring for his kingdom and his throne. The next day while David was playing the lyre (harp) a tormenting spirit came upon Saul forcefully, and he prophesied (raved madly) in his house. With the javelin (spear) in his hand, Saul cast the javelin and tried to pin David to the wall, but David escaped twice (**1 Samuel 18:10-11**).

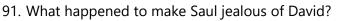
(1 Samuel 18 NIV) (10) The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand (11) and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

(1 Samuel 18 AMP) (10) Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul, and he raved [madly] inside his house, while David was playing the harp with his hand, as usual; and there was a spear in Saul's

hand. (11) Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice.

Saul sent David away from his presence because of fear and made him captain over a thousand troops (1 Samuel 18:12-13 KJV (12) And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul. (13) Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.) The Lord's favor and anointing was upon David, and everything that David did was successful. All of Israel and Judah loved him because of his successful campaigns. Saul recognized this success and his jealousy and fear drove him into complete madness. Instead of viewing David as the Lord's anointed who fought the battles of the Lord and embrace the success of his loving, faithful servant as a father embraces the success of a son. Saul would view David as the enemy.

Questions from the Lesson



92. <u>Discuss the following statements</u>. From that day forward Saul jealously eyed David

Jealousy refers to negative thoughts and feelings of insecurity, fear, and anxiety over an anticipated loss of something of great personal value, particularly in reference to a human connection. Jealousy is a typical experience in human relationships.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jealousy)

Envy is an emotion which "occurs when a person lacks another's superior quality, achievement or possession and either desires it or wishes that the other lacked it" Bertrand Russell said that envy was one of the most potent causes of unhappiness. Not only is the envious person rendered unhappy by his envy, but they also wish to inflict misfortune on others. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Envy)



Cain killed his brother Abel because of Anger, Envy, and Jealousy? He could not control (rule) his emotions!

(Genesis 4:2-9 NIV) (2) ... Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. (3) In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. (4) And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, (5) but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. (6) Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? (7) If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." (8) Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. (9) Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

- (Proverbs 25:28 AMP)
 Like a city that is broken down and without walls [leaving it unprotected] Is a man who has no self-control over his spirit [and sets himself up for trouble].
- (Proverbs 14:30 AMPC)
 A calm and undisturbed mind and heart are the life and health of the body, <u>but envy</u>, <u>jealousy</u>, and wrath are like rottenness of the <u>bones</u>.
- (Proverbs 14:30 NLT)
 A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones.
- 93. Did David do anything to justify (say, behave, or act untrustworthy to cause) Saul's jealousy?
- 94. What did Saul believe David was conspiring to do?

95. <u>Discuss the following statement</u>. Jealousy and Fear had Saul believing that David was no longer his faithful servant but was now conspiring for his kingdom and his throne. FALSE PERCEPTION!

- a. Spiritual Perception is everything to a child of god we do not rely on our senses!
 (Hebrews 11:1 AMPC) Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].
- b. Example of False Perception Apostle Paul
 - Saul was taught by Gamaliel one of the greatest teachers of Jewish laws and customs - Acts 22
 - Saul was a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee
 Acts 23
 - Saul was on his way to Damascus to imprison the saints but met the Lord -Acts 9

Saul was sincere in his beliefs and actions, *but he was sincerely wrong*!

- We must allow God must change our perception by renewing our minds
- 96. <u>Discuss the following statement</u>. Ministry is not a competition – we should all want the same results. (Mark 9:38-40 NLT) (38) John said to

(Mark 9:38-40 NLT) (38) John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group." (39) "Don't stop him!" Jesus said. "No one who performs a miracle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me. (40) <u>Anyone who is not against us is for us</u>.

- 97. A tormenting spirit came upon Saul and caused him to do what in (**1 Sam 18:10-11**)?
- Learning Godly Principles from the story of David the Shepherd Boy Berea Christian Ministries



- 98. Saul was the king who possessed riches, authority, and power. How could such a man be jealous of a shepherd boy just turned soldier?
- 99. <u>Discuss the following statement</u>. Saul became more obsessed with the desire to be honored/elevated before the people and others more than fulfilling the work and the Word of the Lord.
- 100. <u>Discuss the following statement</u>. Instead of viewing David as the Lord's anointed who fought the battles of the Lord and embrace the success of his loving, faithful servant as a father embraces the success of a son. Saul would view David as the enemy.
- 101. <u>Discuss the following statements</u>. David was playing the lyre (harp) a tormenting spirit came upon Saul forcefully, and he prophesied (raved madly) in his house. With the javelin (spear) in his hand, Saul cast the javelin and tried to pin David to the wall, but David escaped twice (**1 Samuel 18:10-11**).
 - a. Why was David able to play the harp and the evil spirit fled in **1 Sam 16:23** <u>but did</u> <u>not flee</u> in **1 Sam 18:10-11**?

(1 Samuel 16:23 KJV) And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

(1 Samuel 18 NIV) (10) The next day <u>an</u> <u>evil spirit from God came forcefully on</u> <u>Saul. He was prophesying in his house,</u> <u>while David was playing the lyre, as he</u> <u>usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand</u> (<u>11) and he hurled it,</u> saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. b. The condition of the heart (ground) affects the ability to receive from God.

(Hebrews 3:7-8 Amplified Bible) (7) Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, (8) <u>Do not harden your hearts</u>.....

(Mark 4:18-19 New Living Translation) (18) The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, (19) but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

c. Your perceptions of a person affect the ability to receive from God.

(Mark 6:3-6 King James Version)

(3) Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. (4) But Jesus, said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. (5) And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

d. How was Saul able to prophesy with an evil spirit upon him?

(1 Samuel 18 NIV) (10) The next day <u>an evil</u> <u>spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was</u> <u>prophesying in his house, while David was</u> <u>playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a</u> <u>spear in his hand (11) and he hurled it, saying to</u> himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

(Acts 16:16-17 Amplified Bible) (16) It happened that as we were on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination [that is, a demonic spirit claiming to foretell the future and discover hidden knowledge], and she brought her owners a good profit by fortune-telling. (17) She followed after Paul and us and kept screaming and shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are proclaiming to you the way of salvation!"

SAUL'S ANGER, JEALOUSY, AND MADNESS CONTINUED...

Driven by anger, jealousy, and fear Saul made several attempts to kill David.

a. An evil spirit forcefully comes upon Saul, and he tries to kill David with a spear while David played the harp (**1 Sam. 18:10-11**).

(1 Samuel 18:10-13 New Living Translation) (10) The very next day a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and <u>he began</u> to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand, (11) and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But <u>David escaped him twice</u>. (12) <u>Saul was then afraid of David, for the</u> <u>Lord was with David</u> and had turned away from Saul. 13 Finally, Saul sent him away and appointed him commander over 1,000 men, and David faithfully led his troops into battle.

- Saul was madly prophesying in his house according to Bible versions (KJV and NIV)
- Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him (The Spirit of God will either draw or repel men!)
- Saul was afraid For fear that David had gained the favor of God and of all the people, he would also take away his kingdom
- Saul abided in Fear the enemy uses Saul to try to prevent David from fulfilling his divine purpose (The enemy is afraid of us fulfilling our calling of God!)
- b. Saul uses his daughter (Michal) to snare David into marriage. <u>Saul promises Michal's hand in</u> <u>marriage for 100 Philistine foreskins. Saul</u> <u>wanted David killed by the hand of the</u> <u>Philistines</u> (**1 Sam. 18:20-29**).
 - Saul tries to set David up for failure David was promised one of Saul's daughters for killing Goliath. But Saul continued to add

conditions to this marriage with the underlying desire to have David killed in battle.

1 Samuel 17:25 KJV And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, <u>and will give him</u> <u>his daughter, and make his father's house free in</u> <u>Israel</u>.

1 Samuel 18:17-30 NLT (17) One day Saul said to David, "I am ready to give you my older daughter, Merab, as your wife. But first you must prove yourself to be a real warrior by fighting the Lord's battles." For Saul thought, "I'll send him out against the Philistines and let them kill him rather than doing it myself." (18) "Who am I, and what is my family in Israel that I should be the king's son-in-law?" David exclaimed. "My father's family is nothing!" (19) So <u>when the</u> time came for Saul to give his daughter Merab in marriage to David, he gave her instead to Adriel, a man from Meholah. (20) In the meantime, Saul's daughter Michal had fallen in love with David, and Saul was delighted when he heard about it. (21) "Here's another chance to see him killed by the Philistines!" Saul said to himself. But to David he said, "Today you have a second chance to become my son-in-law!" (22) Then Saul told his men to say to David, "The king really likes you, and so do we. Why don't you accept the king's offer and become his son-(23) When Saul's men said these in-law?" things to David, he replied, "How can a poor man from a humble family afford the bride price for the daughter of a king?" (24) When Saul's men reported this back to the king, (25) he told them, "Tell David that all I want for the bride price is 100 Philistine foreskins! Vengeance on my enemies is all I really want." But what Saul had in mind was that David would be killed in (26) David was delighted to accept the fight. the offer. Before the time limit expired, (27) he and his men went out and killed 200 Philistines.

Then David fulfilled the king's requirement by presenting all their foreskins to him. So Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife. (28) When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and how much his daughter Michal loved him, (29) <u>Saul became even more afraid of</u> <u>him, and he remained David's enemy for the rest</u> <u>of his life</u>. (30) Every time the commanders of the Philistines attacked, David was more successful against them than all the rest of Saul's officers. So David's name became very famous.

Saul consistently tried to trap and snare (formed weapons against David).

(Isaiah 54:17 Amplified Bible) "No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; And every tongue that rises against you in judgment you will condemn. This [peace, righteousness, security, and triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And this is their vindication from Me," says the Lord.

(Isaiah 54:17 New Living Translation) But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed. You will silence every voice raised up to accuse you. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the Lord; their vindication will come from me. I, the Lord, have spoken!

(Proverbs 26:27 Amplified Bible) Whoever digs a pit [for another man's feet] will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone [up a hill to do mischief], it will come back on him.

How should we respond when weapons form against us?

(Matthew 5:11-12 King James Version) (11) Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

(12) Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. c. Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David, but Jonathan persuaded Saul not to harm him. Jonathan spoke well of David and explained to Saul that his kingdom benefitted greatly from David's successes, the Lord won a great victory for Israel by David's hands, and that David was an innocent man who had done nothing wrong. Saul listened and agreed with Jonathan for a season (**1 Sam. 19:1-7**). David returned to the kingdom with Saul.

Jonathan makes allegiance to David but continues to follow his father Saul who was vexed with an evil spirit. However, other relatives of Saul later chose to follow David.

(1 Samuel 23:16-18 Amplified Bible) (16) And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went [into the woods] to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God. (17) He said to him, "Do not be afraid; the hand of my father Saul will not find you. You will be king over Israel and I will be second in command to you; my father Saul knows this too." (18) So the two of them made a covenant before the Lord; and David stayed [in the woods] at Horesh and Jonathan went to his house.

(1 Chronicles 12 NLT) (1) The following men joined David at Ziklag while he was hiding from Saul son of Kish. They were among the warriors who fought beside David in battle. (2) <u>All of</u> <u>them were expert archers, and they could shoot</u> <u>arrows or sling stones with their left hand as well</u> <u>as their right. They were all relatives of Saul from</u> <u>the tribe of Benjamin</u>.

Are we more faithful to man than to God and more fearful of man than of God?

(John 12:42-43 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition) (42) And yet [in spite of all this] many even of the leading men (the authorities and the nobles) believed and trusted in Him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear that [if they should acknowledge Him] they would be expelled from the synagogue; (43)For they

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loved the approval and the praise and the glory that come from men [instead of and] more than the glory that comes from God. [They valued their credit with men more than their credit with God.1

(Proverbs 29:25 New Living Translation) Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.

d. David is very successful in battle and returns to play for Saul. An evil spirit comes upon Saul, and he tries to kill David with the spear again while playing the harp (1 Sam. 19:8-10).

(1 Samuel 19:8-10 King James Version) (8) And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him. (9) And the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand. (10) And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin: but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

David trusted that the Lord would fight his battle and did not retaliate against Saul.

(2 Chronicles 20:15-17 New Living Translation) (15) He said, "Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid! Don't be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God's. (16) Tomorrow, march out against them. You will find them coming up through the ascent of Ziz at the end of the valley that opens into the wilderness of Jeruel. (17) But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the Lord's victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!"

Questions from the Lesson



- 103. Why do you believe David did not retaliate and take matters into his own hands?
- 104. What is the meaning and the Principle of Reciprocity (Galatians 6:7)?

(Galatians 6:7 New Living Translation) Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

(Galatians 6:7 King James Version) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

e. Saul sent men to David's house to watch and kill him in the morning, but David escaped out of the window with the help of Michal. Michal tells the men that David is sick in bed. Saul sends messengers to bring David up from the bed so he could kill David, but he had already fled. When Michal was confronted by her father (Saul), she told him that David threatened to kill her if she didn't help him (1 Sam. 19:11-17).

(1 Samuel 18:5 Amplified Bible) So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and he acted wisely and prospered; and Saul appointed him over the men of war. And it pleased all the people and also Saul's servants.

The text stated that the men accepted and loved David for his great exploits.

How can you admire/love someone one moment and aid in a plot to kill them the next?

(John 12:12-26 King James Version) (12) On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, (13) Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him,



and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

(Matthew 21:9-11 King James Version) (9) And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. (10) And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? (11) <u>And the multitude said, This is Jesus the</u> <u>prophet of Nazareth of Galilee</u>.(50) And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him.

(Matthew 27:20-22 King James Version) (20) But <u>the chief priests and elders</u> <u>persuaded the multitude that they should ask</u> <u>Barabbas, and destroy Jesus</u>. (21) The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. (22) Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? <u>They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.</u>

WHEN PRAISE TURNS INTO PERSECUTION!

They hailed Jesus as King with their many Hosannas, recognizing Him as the Son of David who came in the name of the Lord.

When Jesus failed in their expectations and refused to lead them in a massive revolt against the Roman occupiers, the crowds quickly turned on Him.

Within days, their Hosannas would change to cries of "Crucify Him!"

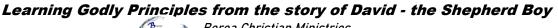
Those who hailed Him would soon reject and abandon Him!

f. David flees to Samuel (the Prophet, Judge, and Priest of the Lord) at Ramah and they go to Naioth. David stays with Samuel and a group of prophets. Saul sends messengers to capture David, but the messengers fall under the anointing of God. When they saw Samuel standing and the prophets prophesying, the Spirit of the Lord fell upon them also, and they too prophesied. <u>Saul sends a total of three sets</u> of messengers and they all prophesy as the Spirit of the Lord fell upon them. They were unable to perform the task they were sent to do.

g. Saul decides to come himself to forcefully take David from the presence of Samuel (the Prophet, Judge, and Priest of the Lord). <u>However, when</u> <u>Saul was coming to Naioth the Spirit of the Lord</u> <u>came upon him, he prophesied as he walked,</u> <u>and when Saul reached Naioth, he stripped off</u> <u>his clothes, lay naked, and prophesied all day</u> <u>and all night in the presence of Samuel.</u> <u>Unfortunately, Saul's character did not change</u> (1)

(1 Samuel 19:18-24 Amplified Bible)

(18) So David fled and escaped and came to Samuel at Ramah, and told him everything that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth. (19) Saul was told, "David is at Naioth in Ramah." (20) Then Saul sent messengers to take David; but when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing and presiding over them, the Spirit of God came on the messengers of Saul; and they also (21) When Saul was informed, prophesied. he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. So Saul sent messengers again, the third time, and they prophesied as well. (22) Then Saul went to Ramah himself and came to the great well that is in Secu; and he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" And he was told, "They are at Naioth [with the prophets] in Ramah." (23) So he went on to Naioth in Ramah; and the Spirit of God came upon him too, and he went along continually prophesying until he came to Naioth in Ramah. (24) He also took off his [royal] robes [and armor] and prophesied before Samuel and lay down naked all that day and night. So they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"



David flees to the house of God (School of the Prophets)

- 1. David went to Samuel for counsel and assistance (seeking wise counsel).
- 2. David fled to the safest place (the presence of God).
- 3. David was under the special protection of God.
- 4. God stripped Saul of his royal attire (momentarily he was humbled in God's presence).
- 5. The Spirit was upon Saul and he prophesied all night – but no change occurred within.
- 6. Samuel was presiding over the other prophets. Is this the first school of the prophets in the Bible?
- 7. Is this the only school of the prophets in the Bible and what was the purpose of this school?
- h. Saul ordered Jonathan (his son) to fetch David so he could kill him. When Jonathan protested, Saul hurled his spear at Jonathan to kill him (1 Sam. 20:30-33).

(1 Samuel 20:30-33 New Living Translation) (30) Saul boiled with rage at Jonathan. "You stupid son of a whore!" he swore at him. "Do you think I don't know that you want him to be king in your place, shaming yourself and (31) As long as that son of your mother? Jesse is alive, you'll never be king. Now go and get him so I can kill him!" (32) "But why should he be put to death?" Jonathan asked his father. "What has he done?" (33) Then Saul hurled his spear at Jonathan, intending to kill him. So at last Jonathan realized that his father was really determined to kill David.

- Saul considered his son an errant fool to be so friendly to a rival, and who would knock him out of the throne ("Thou hast chosen the son of Jesse for thy friend to thy own confusion, for while he lives thou shalt never be established")
- Saul considered David not fit to reign or had no 0 right to the throne, that a son-in-law should take the place before Jonathan

Questions from the Lesson



- 105. Was Jonathan wise to (help) secure an interest in David?
- 106. Why did Saul consider Jonathan to be an errant fool for being friendly to David?
- 107. Saul desired that Jonathan would be appointed the next king. What mistake is often made regarding the succession of leadership (1 Sam 2, 1 Sam 8)

1 Samuel 2:12 Amplified Bible

(12) The sons of Eli [Hophni and Phinehas] were worthless (dishonorable, unprincipled) men; they did not know [nor respect] the ...(17) So the sin of the [two] young Lord men [Hophni and Phinehas] was very great before the Lord, for the men treated the offering of the Lord disrespectfully.

...(22) Now Eli was very old; and he heard about everything that his sons were doing to all [the people of] Israel, and how they were lying with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting (tabernacle).

1 Samuel 8:1-4 Amplified Bible

(1) And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons as judges over (2) Now the name of his firstborn Israel. was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judging in Beersheba. (3) His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

Driven flees to Nob (town of the priests)

i. David flees to Nob (the town of the priests) to see Ahimelech (Ahimelek), the priest. Ahimelech gave David the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword (1 Sam. 21:1-10). When Saul heard that Ahimelech aided David, he ordered his bodyguards to kill the Lord's priests, but they refused to. But Doeg the Edomite killed 85 priests in all, still wearing their priestly garments. Then he went to Nob and killed the priests' families (men, women, children, babies) and all the cattle, donkeys, sheep, and goats (1 Sam. 22:11-23).

(1 Samuel 21 NLT) (1) David went to the town of Nob to see Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he saw him. "Why are you alone?" he asked. "Why is no one with you?" (2) "The king has sent me on a private matter," David said. "He told me not to tell anyone why I am here. I have told my men where to meet me later. (3) Now, what is there to eat? Give me five loaves of bread or anything else you have." (6) Since there was no other food available, the priest gave him the holy bread—the Bread of the Presence that was placed before the LORD in the Tabernacle. It had just been replaced that day with fresh bread. (8) David asked Ahimelech, "Do you have a spear or sword? The king's business was so urgent that I didn't even have time to grab a weapon!" (9) "I only have the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah," the priest replied. "It is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. Take that if you want it, for there is nothing else here." "There is nothing like it!" David replied. "Give it to me!"

Shewbread was also known as the Bread of the Presence because it remained in the Lord's presence (Holy Place). It was symbolic of God's desire for divine communion (fellowship and intimacy) with man in His presence. Newly baked cakes were set out before the Lord on every Sabbath day on behalf of the Israelites as an everlasting covenant. The older cakes were reserved for the servants of the Lord and were eaten only by the priests in a sacred place [some translations state sanctuary area or the Holy Place] (Leviticus 24:5-9)

(1 Samuel 21 NLT) (10) So David escaped from Saul and went to King Achish of Gath. (11) But the officers of Achish were unhappy about his being there. "Isn't this David, the king of the land?" they asked. "Isn't he the one the people honor with dances, singing, 'Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?" (12) David heard these comments and was very afraid of what King Achish of Gath might do to him. (13) So he pretended to be insane, scratching on doors and drooling down his beard. (14) Finally, King Achish said to his men, "Must you bring me a madman? (15) We already have enough of them around here! Why should I let someone like this be my guest?"

Questions from the Lesson

- 108. Was David truthful to Ahimelech (Ahimelek), the priest?
- 109. What did David ask the priest for? What did David receive from the priest?
- 110. Was it lawful for David to eat the Shewbread (Bread of the Presence)?
- 111. Why was Doeg there and what was Doeg's relationship with King Saul?



- 112. What did Doeg tell King Saul about David's and the priest's meeting?
- 113. What was Saul's mental state when Doeg informed him of the meeting?
- 114. Why were the priests of Nob killed?
- 115. Why do you believe Doeg killed the priests?
- 116. Why didn't Saul's men lay hands on the priests as they were commanded to?
- 117. Doeg was an Edomite. What does the Bible say about (what do we know about) the Edomites (**1 Sam 14:47**)?
- 118. Where was Goliath from (**1 Samuel 17:4**)?
- 119. How did David behave in front of King Achish and his men? Why did he behave this way?
- David is believed to have written Psalm 56 while in King Achish's land. <u>Discuss Psalms 56</u>.
 - a. Describe the emotions/feelings of David according to **verses 3, 8, 11, and 13**?
 - b. What does David say about his enemies in **verses 1, 2, 5, and 6**?
 - c. What does David put his confidence in according to **verses 3, and 11**?
 - d. What does David say about God's Word according to **verses 4, 10, and 12**?

David is believed to have written Psalm 56 while in King Achish's land (Gath) (Psalm 56 AMPC)

 Be merciful and gracious to me, O God, for man would trample me or devour me; all the day long the adversary oppresses me.
 They that lie in wait for me would swallow me up or trample me all day long, for they are many who fight against me, O Most High!

(3) What time I am afraid, I will have confidence in and put my trust and reliance in You.

(4) <u>By [the help of] God I will praise His</u> word; on God I lean, rely, and confidently put <u>my trust; I will not fear</u>. What can man, who is flesh, do to me?

(5) All day long they twist my words and trouble my affairs; all their thoughts are against me for evil and my hurt.

(6) They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they watch my steps, even as they have [expectantly] waited for my life.(7) They think to escape with iniquity, and shall they? In Your indignation bring down the peoples, O God.

(8) You number and record my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle—are they not in Your book?

(9) Then shall my enemies turn back in the day that I cry out; this I know, for God is for me.

(10) <u>In God, Whose word I praise, in the Lord,</u> <u>Whose word I praise</u>,

(11) In God have I put my trust and confident reliance; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

(12) <u>Your vows are upon me, O God; I will</u> render praise to You and give You thank offerings.

(13) For You have delivered my life from death, yes, and my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life and of the living.



David is believed to have written Psalm 34 after leaving King Achish's land (Gath) (Psalm 34 AMPC)

(1) I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. (2) My life makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble and afflicted hear and be glad. (3) O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. (4) I sought (inquired of) the Lord and required Him [of necessity and on the authority of His Word], and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. (5) They looked to Him and were radiant; their faces shall never blush for shame or be confused. (6) This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. (7) The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him [who revere and worship Him with awe] and each of them He delivers. (8) O taste and see that the Lord [our God] is good! Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who trusts and takes refuge in Him. (9) O fear the Lord, you His saints [revere and worship Him]! For there is no want to those who truly revere and worship Him with (10) The young lions lack food godly fear. and suffer hunger, but they who seek (inquire of and require) the Lord [by right of their need and on the authority of His Word], none of them shall lack any beneficial thing... (15) The eyes of the Lord are toward the [uncompromisingly] righteous and His ears are open to their cry. (16) The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. (17) When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their distress and troubles.

(18) The Lord is close to those who are of a broken heart and saves such as are crushed with sorrow for sin and are humbly and thoroughly penitent. (19) Many evils confront the [consistently] righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all... (22) The Lord redeems the lives of His servants, and none of those who take refuge and trust in Him shall be condemned or held guilty.

Questions from the Lesson

- David is believed to have written Psalm 34 after leaving King Achish's land. <u>Discuss Psalms 34</u>.
 - a. Describe the emotions/feelings of David according to **verses 1, 2, 3, 6, and 8**?
 - b. What does David say about his enemies in **verses 16, and 19**?
 - c. What does David put his confidence in according to verses 7, 9, 10, 15, 18, and 22?
 - d. What does David say about God's Word according to **verses 4, and 10**?

Driven flees to the cave of Adullam

1 Samuel 22 NLT (1) So David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there. (2) Then others began coming—men who were in trouble or in debt or who were just discontented—until David was the captain of about 400 men. (3) Later David went to Mizpeh in Moab, where he asked the king, "Please allow my father and mother to live here with you until I know what God is going to do for me." (4) So David's parents stayed in Moab with the king during the entire time David was living in his stronghold. (5) One day the prophet Gad told David, "Leave the stronghold and return to the land of Judah." So David went to the forest of Hereth. ...(18) Then the king said to Doeg, "You do it." So Doeg the Edomite turned on them and killed them that day, eightyfive priests in all, still wearing their priestly garments. (20) Only Abiathar, one of the sons of Ahimelech, escaped and fled to David.

Questions from the Lesson

- 122. Who joined David when he left Gath?
- 123. Why did David go to Moab to leave his parents (what is the significance of Moab to David)?
- 124. Discuss Psalms 142.
 - a. Describe the emotions/feelings of David according to **verses 1, 2, 3, and 6**?
 - b. What does David say about his enemies/acquaintances in **verses 4, and 6**?
 - c. What does David put his confidence in according to **verses 5, and 7**?
- 125. Discuss the following statements:
 - a. Just like David, we must learn to pour out to God and rely on God
 - b. Just like David, we must learn to endure the process because the blessings of God (the prophetic) are often not immediate

David is believed to have written Psalm 142 in the cave of Adullam

Psalm 142 AMPC (1) I cry to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord do I make supplication. (2) | pour out my complaint before Him; I tell before (3) When my spirit <u>Him my trouble</u>. was overwhelmed and fainted [throwing all its weight] upon me, then You knew my path. In the way where I walk they have hidden a snare for me. (4) Look on the right hand [the point of attack] and see; for there is no man who knows me [to appear for me]. Refuge has failed me and I have no way to flee; no man cares for my life or my welfare. (5) I cried to You, O Lord; I said, You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. (6) Attend to my loud cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I. (7) Bring my life out of prison, that I may confess, praise, and give thanks to Your name; the righteous will surround me and crown themselves because of me, for You will deal bountifully with me.

- c. Unlike Saul, David learned the importance of seeking God (Saul only had spiritual experiences)
- 126. Discuss the following statements:
 - a. Saul's servants were not necessarily David's servants they were loyal to Saul
 - b. God had to take David out of Saul's kingdom to build His (God's) kingdom
 - God sends David a prophet (Gad) (1
 Sam 22:5, 1Ch_21:9, 2Sa_24:11, 1Ch_29:29)
 - God sends David a priest (Abiathar) (1 Sam 22:6-23)
 - God sends David men (distressed, in debt, discontented) and became great warriors who slew giants (1 Sam 22:5; 2 Sam 21:15-22; 1Ch 20:4-8)

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Learning Godly Principles from the story of David - the Shepherd Boy
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The Rock of Escape

j. Saul goes to the town of Keilah to kill David, but the Lord instructed David to flee. David and his 600 men escaped to the wilderness and the hills of Ziph. Saul searched for David in the Wilderness of Ziph at Horesh and then for him in the wilderness of Maon. Just as Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men, an urgent message reached Saul that the Philistines were raiding Israel again. Saul quit chasing David and returned to fight the Philistines. That place was called Sela Hammahlekoth (the Rock of Escape).

(1 Samuel 23:7-29 Amplified Bible)

(7) Now when Saul was informed that David had come to Keilah, Saul said, "God has handed him over to me, for he shut himself in by entering a city that has double gates and bars." (8) So Saul summoned all the people (soldiers) for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men. (9) But David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." (10) Then David said, "O Lord, the God of Israel, Your servant has heard for certain that Saul intends to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. (11) Will the men of Keilah hand me over to him? Will Saul come down just as Your servant has heard? O Lord, God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant." And the Lord said, <u>"He will come down</u>." (12) <u>Then David</u> asked, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men to Saul?" The Lord said, "They will surrender you." (13) Then David and his men, about six hundred, arose and left Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the pursuit

(1 Samuel 23:7-29 Amplified Bible)

(24) So they arose and went to Ziph ahead of Saul. Now David and his men were in the Wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah south of Jeshimon. (25) Then Saul and his men went to search for him. When David was told about it, he went down to the rock and stayed [there] in the Wilderness of Maon. When Saul heard it, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon. (26) Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. And David was hurrying to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were surrounding David and his men to capture them. (27) But a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, because the Philistines have attacked the (28) So Saul returned from land." pursuing David and went to meet the Philistines; therefore they called that place the Rock of Escape. (29) David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds of Engedi.

Questions from the Lesson

- 127. How could Saul believe that <u>God had</u> <u>handed</u> David over to him? Was God working with Saul to catch David?
- 128. When David heard that Saul and his men were coming to Keilah, what did he request from Abiathar the priest?
- 129. What questions did David ask God, was David specific?
- 130. Should we be more specific when making our petitions to God?
- 131. Who were the Ziphetes? Why do you believe they were helping Saul?
- 132. Saul had finally surrounded David at a place called the Rock of Escape. How were David and his men spared?

Wilderness of En Gedi

k. Saul returned from fighting the Philistines with 3000 men and pursued David and his men in the Desert of En Gedi. As Saul relieved himself in a cave, David cut off the hem (edge) of Saul's robe without his knowledge. But David refused to harm Saul (his master/king and the Lord's anointed). When Saul rose and left the cave, David called out to Saul, bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground, and showed Saul the hem. David declared to Saul his innocence of treason. <u>Saul</u> <u>acknowledged his error and David's integrity and righteousness</u>. <u>Saul made David swear not to</u> <u>cut off his descendants when he became king of</u> <u>Israel</u> (**1 Sam. 24**).

Questions from the Lesson

- 133. Why did Saul go into the cave? Why were David and his men already in the cave?
- 134. What did David's men say when Saul entered the cave?
- 135. What did David's men want to do Saul?
- 136. Why didn't David allow his men to do that to Saul?
- 137. What did David do to Saul in the cave?
- 138. What did David shout to Saul outside of the cave?
- 139. Explain the old proverb, "From evil people come evil deeds".
- 140. What did Saul call David outside of the cave?
- 141. What did Saul admit to outside of the cave?
- 142. What did Saul make David swear to outside of the cave?
- 143. Why do you believe God allowed Saul to be placed in this vulnerable situation in the first place?

1 Samuel 24 New Living Translation (3) At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave! (4) "Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today the Lord is telling you, 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish." So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe. (5) But then David's conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul's robe. (6) He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn't attack the Lord's anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him." (7) So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul. After Saul had left the cave and gone on his (8) David came out and shouted way, after him, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him.

(11) Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn't kill you.... (13) As that old proverb says, 'From evil people come evil deeds.' So you can be sure I will never harm you. (16) When David had finished speaking, Saul called back, "Is that really you, my son David?" Then he began to cry. (17) And he said to David, "You are a better man than I am, for you have repaid me good for evil. (19) Who else would let his enemy get away when he had him in his power? May the Lord reward you well for the kindness you (20) And now I have shown me today. realize that you are surely going to be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will flourish under your rule. (21) Now swear to me by the Lord that when that happens you will not kill my family and destroy my line of descendants!"

1 Samuel 25 New Living Translation (4) When David heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep, (5) he sent ten of his young men to Carmel with this message for Nabal: (6) "Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own! (8) ...would you be kind to us, since we have come at a time of celebration? Please share any provisions you might have on hand with us and with your friend David." (10) "Who is this fellow David?" Nabal sneered to the young men. "Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are lots of servants these days who run away from their masters. (11) Should I take my bread and my water and my meat that I've slaughtered for my shearers and give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where?" (12) So David's young men returned and told him what Nabal had said. (13) "Get your swords!" was David's reply as he strapped on his own. Then 400 men started off with David, and 200 remained behind to guard their equipment.

(23) When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him. (26) "Now, my lord, as surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, since the Lord has kept you from murdering and taking vengeance into your own hands, let all your enemies and those who try to harm you be as cursed as Nabal is. (27) And here is a present that I, your servant, have brought to you and your young men. (29) "Even when you are chased by those who seek to kill you, your life is safe in the care of the Lord your God, secure in his treasure pouch! But the lives of your enemies will disappear like stones shot from a sling! (30) When the Lord has done all he promised and has made you leader of Israel, (31) don't let this be a blemish on your record. Then your conscience won't have to bear the staggering burden of needless bloodshed and vengeance. And when the Lord has done these great things for you, please remember me, your servant!"

David and Nabal

Nabal was from the clan of Caleb, and his name means "fool". Nabal lived near the town of Maoen in the hill country of Judea and possessed thousands of sheep and goats that he pastured near Carmel. Nabal was extremely wealthy; however, his greatest asset was his beautiful and intelligent wife, Abigail.

It is believed that David and his men provided for themselves by defending farms and towns from raiders and thieves. It was common practice for a wealthy landowner to provide sustenance for the men who guarded his property. So Nabal should not have been surprised David requested provisions for his men from Nabal (**1 Sam 25:4–9**). A young man in Nabal's employ described David's men as "a wall around us, both day and night, the whole time we were herding our sheep near them" (**1 Sam 25:16**). But Nabal responded to David's request with sneering arrogance and disrespect.

In response, David prepared his men for battle against Nabal's household. In an act of grace and courage, Abigail intervened on her husband's behalf. She sent supplies to David's camp without Nabal's knowledge. Then she went personally, humbling herself and pleading for mercy. Her quick thinking saved Nabal and his estate from David's retribution.

When Nabal sobered up the next morning, Abigail told him what she had done to appease David. Upon hearing the news, Nabal had a stroke or heart attack and lay paralyzed for ten days. The Bible says that "the Lord struck Nabal and he died" (**1 Sam 25:38**). Rarely does the Bible use such terminology to indicate that a person's death was the result of a direct act of God. But in Nabal's case, that was the truth. His ongoing, unrepentant wickedness in his open defiance of the Lord's anointed, was judged by God.

When David heard of these events, he offered Abigail a marriage proposal. She took along five of her servant girls and became his wife. Abigail is later recorded as the mother of David's second son, Daniel (**1 Chronicles 3:1**), also called Chileab in **2 Samuel 3:3**.

Questions from the Lesson

- 144. What do we know about Naban?
- 145. What does Naban's name mean?
- 146. How did Naban live up to the meaning of his name?
- 147. How did David and his men provide for themselves according to some historians?
- 148. Why did David feel it was acceptable to ask Naban for provisions?
- 149. How did Naban respond to David's request?
- 150. What were David and his men prepared to do after hearing Naban's response?
- 151. How did Abigail stop David and his men from responding?
- 152. After reading **1 Samuel 25: 29-30**, what did Abigail know about David?
- 153. How did Naban die?
- 154. Why do you believe Naban died in this manner?
- 155. What happened to Abigail after Naban died?

Hill of Hachilah (Hakilah)

Ι. Saul and his 3000 Israelite troops search for David on the hill of Hakilah. As Saul and his army lay down at night sleeping (the LORD had put them into a deep sleep), David and Abishai took Saul's spear and a water jug that were near Saul's head. David still refused to lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. When David was a great distance away, he called out to Saul and Abner (the commander of the army). David declares his innocence again to Saul. Once again Saul acknowledges his sin (his foolishness and error). Saul blesses David, David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place (1 Sam. 26). David and the 600 men with him fled to the land of the Philistines to escape from Saul.

1 Samuel 26 New Living Translation (7) So David and Abishai went right into Saul's camp and found him asleep, with his spear stuck in the ground beside his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying asleep around him. (8) "God has surely handed your enemy over to you this time!" Abishai whispered to David. "Let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't need to strike twice!" (9) "No!" David said. "Don't kill him. For who can remain innocent after attacking the Lord's anointed one? (10) Surely the Lord will strike Saul down someday, or he will die of old age or in battle. (11) The Lord forbid that I should kill the one he has anointed! But take his spear and that jug of water beside his head, and then let's get out of here!" (12) So David took the spear and jug of water that were near Saul's head. Then he and Abishai got away without anyone seeing them or even waking up, because the Lord had put Saul's men into a deep sleep.

(13) David climbed the hill opposite the camp until he was at a safe distance. (14) Then he shouted down to the soldiers and to Abner son of Ner, "Wake up, Abner!" "Who is it?" Abner demanded. (15) "Well, Abner, you're a great man, aren't you?" David taunted. "Where in all Israel is there anyone as mighty? So why haven't you guarded your master the king when someone came to kill him? (17) Saul recognized David's voice and called out, "Is that you, my son David?" And David replied, "Yes, my lord the king. (21) Then Saul confessed, "I have sinned. Come back home, my son, and I will no longer try to harm you, for you valued my life today. I have been a fool and very, very wrong."

Questions from the Lesson 💡

- 156. Why were David and Abishai able to go in and out of Saul's camp undetected **(verse 12)**?
- 157. Where was Saul in the camp and where were his men that guarded him?
- 158. What was beside Saul's head when he was sleeping?
- 159. What did Abishai want to do to Saul while he was sleeping?
- 160. What did David and Abishai take from Saul's camp?
- 161. Who was Abner and what position did he hold (1 Samuel 14:50)?
- 162. Discuss David's declaration of innocence.

(1 Samuel 26 NLT) (19) But now let my lord the king listen to his servant. If the Lord has stirred you up against me, then let him accept my offering. But if this is simply a human scheme, then may those involved be cursed by the Lord. For they have driven me from my home, so I can no longer live among the Lord's people, and they have said, 'Go, worship pagan gods.' (20) Must I die on foreign soil, far from the presence of the Lord? Why has the king of Israel come out to search for a single flea? Why does he hunt me down like a partridge on the mountains?"

- 163. How did Saul respond? Was Saul sincere?
- 164. Did David return with Saul to the kingdom?
- 165. Why do you believe God allowed this event to happen (what was the purpose)?

L. WHEN INTEGRITY IS TESTED

There comes a time in the life of every believer when he must rely on principle alone for guidance. Often at that moment, he has to stand alone while others rationalize their disregard of the principle. David's men reminded him of a promise the Lord had given him. **"Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine** hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee" (I Samuel 24:4). However, one cannot violate God's principles without consequences. One such principle David refused to violate was "touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm" (I Chronicles 16:22) even though Saul hunted David like a partridge, seeking to kill him.

(Proverbs 20:7 New Living Translation) The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.

The word integrity comes from the same Latin root as integer (wholeness of character undivided or unbroken). A person of integrity is living rightly, not divided, nor being a different person in different circumstances. A person of integrity is the same person in private that he or she is in public. They exhibit consistency of word and deed and uncompromising adherence to a code of values that comes from the Word of God. They stand by principles no matter what the consequences. Integrity is the unwavering determination in the heart to do right no matter what.

True Meaning of Integrity - Dr. S. M. Davis

When I'm not afraid, I must do right. When my emotions try to lead me the wrong way, I must have integrity. I must do right. When I'm among the unsaved, I must do right.

When I'm among Christians you can hardly tell apart from the world, I must do right. When my friends attack me, I must still do right.

When my friends turn on me, despise me, and make fun of me, I must do right.
When my spouse and children don't stand with me, I must do right.
When it's hard, I must do right.
When the cost seems high, I must do right.
When people don't like it, I must do right.
That's integrity!

Learning Godly Principles from the story of David - the Shepherd Boy



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Questions from the Lesson

- 166. Discuss the importance of the following the Biblical principle of <u>Reaping and Sowing</u>:
 - a. (Galatians 6:7 NLT) Don't be misled you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

(Galatians 6:7 KJV) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap)

- b. (Proverbs 18:21 NLT) The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.
- c. (Matthew 7:12 AMP) So then, in everything treat others the same way you want them to treat you, for this is [the essence of] the Law and the [writings of the] Prophets.
- 167. The primary reasons David was loyal to Saul. Discuss the following statements.
 - a. David believed Saul was in God's hands and he was forbidden to put Saul to death.
 1 Samuel 26:10-11 NLT (10) Surely the Lord will strike Saul down someday, or he will die of old age or in battle. (11) The Lord forbid that I should kill the one he has anointed...
 - b. David had great faith in God's plan and timing. As long as God wanted Saul to be king, David would wait. He would not take matters into his own hands.

David flees to the Philistines 1 Samuel 27 Amplified Bible

(1) But David said in his heart, "Now I will die one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me inside the borders of Israel, and I will escape from his hand [once and for all]." (2) So David and the six hundred men who were with him arose and crossed over to Achish the son of Maoch, king of Gath.

1 Samuel 27 Amplified Bible

(4) When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him. (5) Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your sight, let me be given a place [of my own] in one of the cities in the country, so that I may live there; for why should your servant live in the royal city with you?" (6) Then Achish gave David [the town of] Ziklag that day. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to [a]this day. (7) The number of days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four (8) Now David and his men went months. up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites [the enemies of Israel that Joshua had failed to annihilate]; for they had inhabited the land from ancient times, as one comes to Shur even as far as the land of Egypt. (9) David attacked the land and did not leave a man or a woman alive, but he took the sheep, the cattle, the donkeys, the camels, and the clothing, and returned to Achish. (10) When Achish asked, "Where did you raid today?" David replied, "Against the Negev (the South country) of Judah, and against the Negev of the Jerahmeelites, and against the Negev of the Kenites." (12) Achish believed David, saying, "He has certainly become hated by his people in Israel; so he will always be my servant."

FEAR, FRUSTRATION, AND FAITH

David said in his heart, "Now I will die one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape to the land of the Philistines." It is unclear whether David's lack of faith (as most commentators believe) or God's divine intervention caused David to flee to the Philistines. We have no record from **1 Sam 27** that David consulted the priest or the prophet concerning God's will in this move. However, David's statement does reveal that both frustration and fear had taken hold. Perhaps at that moment, David questioned the promise (Word) of



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God spoken into his life and the will of God concerning his life. Or perhaps it was God's providence to detach David from his country and to let the disasters impending over Saul and his followers be brought on by the Philistines.

David had every assurance that he would become king. He had heard predictions of his coming exaltation as king from Jonathan, Saul, Abigail, and possibly the prophets. David also experienced how God was with him by protecting, and defending him, and by delivering Saul into his hands once and again. But now David had concluded in his heart that he would perish by the hand of Saul. The cities of Israel had refused to offer him a safe abode and now he seeks refuge with the enemy. The King of Gath welcomed David, hoping to employ this great warrior forever to his service. David, his men, and their families lived with King Achish at Gath and were later given the town of Ziklag. They lived in the country of the Philistines for one year and four months.

Saul had previously viewed David and his men as traitors to his throne. Now they would be perceived as friends to the Philistines and traitors to their own country. However, during their stay with the Philistines David and his men only raided the Geshurites, Girzites, and the Amalekites (never the people of God). As they returned from their raids (probably to deliver King Achish a portion of the spoil) they lied and stated they had performed raids against Saul and the men of Judah.

Questions from the Lesson



- 168. What do you believe was the real reason or reasons David fled to the Philistines?
- 169. Discuss the following statement.

Although frustrations may set in at times in our lives, as believers we must continue to trust (have faith and confidence) that God's Word will stand forever even in an everchanging world.

- 170. Should David have remained in his own country after experiencing God protecting him and delivering Saul into his hands multiple times?
- 171. What would you have done in David's situation?
- 172. Why did Saul stop seeking David?
- 173. There were multiple individuals that confirmed that David would someday be king. <u>Name a</u> <u>few of them</u>.
- 174. What Philistine king did David and his men flee to?
- 175. How did this king respond when David came to him? Why did he respond this way?
- 176. Why didn't the cities of Israel offer David refuge?
- 177. Why do you believe David requested his own country town from the king?
- 178. What town did the king give David and his men?
- 179. How long did David and his men live in Philistine?
- 180. Were David and his men really traitors to their own country (the people of God)?
- 181. What lie did David tell the Philistine king regarding the spoils from the raids?

David accompanies the Philistines in the battle against Israel 1 Samuel 28 Amplified Bible

 In those days the Philistines gathered their forces for war to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, "Understand for certain that you and your men will go out with me to battle."
 David said to Achish, "All right, you shall know what your servant can do." So Achish said to David, "Therefore I will make you my bodyguard for life." (1 Samuel 29 Amplified Bible) (2) As the Philistine lords (governors) were proceeding on [marching] by hundreds and by thousands, and David and his men were proceeding on in the rear with Achish [the king of Gath], (4) But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and they said to him, "Make this man return, so that he may go back to his place where you have assigned him, and do not let him go down to battle with us, or in the battle he may [turn and] become our adversary. For how could David reconcile himself to his lord [Saul]? Would it not be with the heads of these [Philistine] men?

(1 Samuel 30 Amplified Bible) (1) Now it happened when David and his men came [home] to Ziklag on the third day, [they found] that the Amalekites had made a raid on the Negev (the South country) and on Ziklag, and had overthrown Ziklag and burned it with fire; (6) Further, David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for all of them were embittered, each man for his sons and daughters. But David felt strengthened and encouraged in the Lord his God.

The Amalekites had invaded southern parts of the land of the Philistines, and of Judah. They took the opportunity of the Philistines being gone into the land of Israel, and particularly of David's absence from Ziklag. The Amalekites bore a grudge against David for his invasion, destruction, and spoil of them not long before (**1Sam_27:8**). They surprised the city when it was left unguarded, plundered it, burnt it, and carried all the women and children captives (**1Sam_30:1-2**). They smote Ziklag, demolished the buildings in it, pulled down the houses after they had rifled them, and burnt them with fire, that David and his men might dwell there no more. David and his men wept until they had no more power to weep, **1Sam_30:4**. Saul had driven David from his country. The Amalekites had plundered his city, his wives were taken prisoners. Now, to complete his woe, his own familiar friends, whom he trusted, threatened to stone him. *But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God*. He kept his spirit calm and sedate, assuring himself that God can and will bring light out of darkness, peace out of trouble, and good out of evil, to all that love him and are the called according to his purpose, **Rom_8:28**.

David requested that Abiathar the priest get the ephod to ask for counsel from the Lord. This request was not made when he went out with Achish to the Battle. In <u>all our ways</u> we are instructed to acknowledge God and expect that God will direct our steps, as he did those of David. **(1Sam_30:8 And David enquired at the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.)**

David took his 600 men to pursue. But 200 of the men were too exhausted to cross the brook, so David continued the pursuit with 400 men. Led by an abandoned Egyptian slave they found the Amalekites eating, drinking, and dancing with joy because of the vast amount of plunder they had taken from the Philistines and the land of Judah. David and his men rushed in among them and slaughtered them and got back everything the Amalekites had taken. When they arrived back at Ziklag, David sent part of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends as a present taken from the Lord's enemies.

Questions from the Lesson



- 182. Why do you believe David accompanied King Achish into battle against Israel? Did David have a choice?
- 183. Do we have any record that David sought the will of God concerning this battle?

- 184. Why didn't the other Philistine governors want David or his men in this battle?
- 185. Why did the Amalekites attack Ziglag and Southern Judah during this time?
- 186. Discuss the following statements.
 - a. If Saul had destroyed all the Amalekites in
 1 Sam 15 as commanded by the Lord; these later battles with the Amalekites would not have occurred.
 - b. God inclined the hearts of these Amalekites to carry the women and children away captives, and not to kill them. When David invaded them he put all to the sword (**1Sam_27:9**), they did not retaliate upon this city, but God restrained them. <u>God has all hearts in his hands</u>.
- 187. After David's men wept until they had no more power to weep, what did they want to do to David?
- 188. Discuss the following statements. David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. He kept his spirit calm and sedate, assuring himself that God can and will bring light out of darkness, peace out of trouble, and good out of evil, to all that love him and are the called according to his purpose, **Rom_8:28**.
- 189. Why did David request that Abiathar the priest get the ephod?
- 190. <u>Discuss the following statements</u>. In <u>all our ways</u> we are instructed to acknowledge God and expect that He will direct our steps, as he did those of David. <u>Should we be specific in our petitions</u>?
- 191. David returned from killing the Amalekites and getting everything back. Two hundred soldiers were too exhausted to fight.
 - a. How did some of the 400 soldiers feel about them as they returned?
 - b. What statute and ordinance did David make on that day that continued in Israel (1Sam_30:24-25)?

192. Who else did David share the spoils with after he recovered all?

Saul consults a witch (Raises Samuel from the dead)

(1 Sam 28 Amplified Classic)
(3) Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the wizards out of the land. (6) When Saul inquired of the Lord, He refused to answer him, either by dreams or by Urim [a symbol worn by the priest when seeking the will of God for Israel] or by the prophets.
(7) Then Saul said to his servants, Find me a woman who is a medium [between the living and the dead], that I may go and inquire of her. His servants said, Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at Endor...

(1 Sam 28 Amplified Classic) (15) And Samuel said to Saul, Why have you disturbed me to bring me up? Saul answered, I am bitterly distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I should do... (18) Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord or execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day. (19) Moreover, the Lord will also give Israel with you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me [among the dead]. The Lord also will give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines. (20) Then immediately Saul fell full length upon the earth floor [of the medium's house], and was exceedingly afraid because of Samuel's words. There was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night.

Learning Godly Principles from the story of David - the Shepherd Boy



SAUL'S TRAGIC END

In 1 Sam 28, we see the Philistine armies gathered to wage war against Israel. When Saul saw the hosts of the Philistines, he became afraid, and terror filled his heart. With Samuel now dead, Saul frantically sought the Lord for direction, but the Lord would not answer him. Out of desperation, Saul found a witch (a woman who was a medium with a familiar spirit) from Endor for direction and instructions on what to do. The woman brought up a ghostly figure of an old man wearing a robe (covered with a mantle). The ghostly figure (Samuel) instructs Saul that Israel would fall to the Philistines and that he and his sons would perish on the next day because of his rejection and disobedience to the Lord's voice. When Saul heard this he became exceedingly afraid, and there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night.

In the end, Saul, his three sons, and all Saul's men died on the same day. The Israelites fled from the cities, and fell before the Philistines and the Philistines dwelled in those towns. The next day the Philistines went out and stripped the slain and found Saul and his three sons. They stripped Saul, cut off his head, and placed his armor in the temple of Ashtaroth [the idols representing the female deities Ashtoreth and Asherah], and they fastened Saul's body to the wall in the city of Bethshan. One could only imagine what the outcome would have been if Saul had only humbled himself and repented after hearing the judgment(s) from God.

(1 Chr 10:13-14 KJV)

(13) So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; (14) And inquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

(1 Sam 31:8-10 KJV)

(8) And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa. (9) And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people. (10) And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan.

Questions from the Lesson

- 193. When Saul saw the hosts of the Philistines, how did he respond?
- 194. Why do you believe the Lord would not respond to Saul by dreams or by Urim [a symbol worn by the priest when seeking the will of God for Israel] or by the prophets?
- 195. Who did Saul go to for guidance?
- 196. Discuss the following statements.
 - **Leviticus 19:31**; **Leviticus 20:6, 27** refer to "mediums and familiar spirits" and forbids being involved with them, as they are an abomination to the Lord. A medium acts as a liaison to contact or communicate with the dead on behalf of the living. The practices associated with mediums and familiar spirits were banned in Israel, and the punishment for practicing such things was death.
 - a. Why was the penalty death for practicing divination (sorcery, interpreting omens, witchcraft, casting spells, mediums, spiritist, or one who consults the dead)?
 - b. Was Saul aware of the penalty for practicing divination?

197. Will God <u>always answer</u> when He is called upon? Discuss the following Scriptures.

Zechariah 7:13 NLT

"Since they refused to listen when I called to them, I would not listen when they called to me, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Proverbs 1:24-28 AMPC

(24) Because I have called and you have refused [to answer], have stretched out my hand and no man has heeded it. (25)And you treated as nothing all my counsel and would accept none of my reproof, (26) I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when the thing comes that shall cause you terror and panic— (27) When your panic comes as a storm and desolation and your calamity comes on as a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. (28) Then will they call upon me [Wisdom] but I will not answer; they will seek me early and diligently but they will not find me.

198. Discuss the following statement. The ghostly figure pronounced a judgment on Israel, Saul, and his sons. They would perish the next day because of Saul's rejection and disobedience to the Lord's voice. Could sincere repentance reverse this judgment as it had done for Ahab (1 Kings **21:17-29**)?

> 1 Kings 21:17-29 NLT (20) "So, my enemy, you have found me!" Ahab exclaimed to Elijah. "Yes," Elijah answered, "I have come because you have sold yourself to what is evil in the Lord's sight. (21) So now the Lord says, 'I will bring disaster on you and consume you. I will destroy every one of your male descendants, slave and free alike, anywhere in Israel! (25) (No one else so completely sold himself to what was evil in the Lord's sight as Ahab did under the

influence of his wife Jezebel. (26) His worst outrage was worshiping idols just as the Amorites had done—the people whom the Lord had driven out from the land ahead of the Israelites.) (27) But when Ahab heard this message, he tore his clothing, dressed in burlap, and fasted. He even slept in burlap and went about in deep mourning. (28) Then another message from the Lord came to Elijah: (29) "Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has done this, I will not do what I promised during his lifetime. It will happen to his sons; I will destroy his dynasty."

- 199. Discuss the following statements. Saul had been chosen and anointed to conquer and save Israel from the oppression of the Philistines. However, because of his rebellion against the voice of God and seeking the counsel of a familiar spirit, the Philistines conquered him.
 - a. Don't let what you were Anointed to Defeat, Defeat You!
 - b. Your destiny to tied to your challenges, your obstacles, and adversities

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BIBLE STUDY REFERENCES AND SOURCES

The study of David has highlighted portions taken from various sources. For a more complete and thorough understanding, it is recommended that each reader study the lessons from each source or a selected source along with this Bible Study for a greater understanding of Biblical principles and memorization of Scripture. For more in-depth study, lessons can be found at these various sources.

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