

1 Samuel Lesson 48 David's Last Meeting With Saul

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

"The Lord's Anointed": David's refusal to kill Saul demonstrates his loyalty to God's original designation of Saul as king. The ruling king in the ancient Near East was usually seen as being under the protection of his deity.

The Spear and the Water Jug: the spear represented the authority and power of the king and the water jug was vital to the life of a person in the arid region where Saul was seeking David. By taking both of these from Saul, David was letting Saul know that he had the opportunity to deprive him of both his kingship and his life, but had chosen not to.

"Go serve other gods": an exile from his own country would not be allowed to worship at the sacred sites in his country. The only worship places available to him would be those of foreign gods in the country where he was exiled.

"Hunting a partridge in the mountains" partridge hunters would beat bushes to force the birds out in the open. Then they would chase them until they were exhausted.

Key Phrase

"stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed"

Read 1 Samuel 26:1-25 Review 1 Samuel 25:25-31

Saul's tearful words in Chapter 24 did not mean much. Upon hearing from the Ziphites that David is hiding on the hill of Hachilah in the region of Jeshimon, Saul gathers together 3,000 men and pursues him again.

1. The Lord has again put David in a place of testing. He is given an opportunity to do away with Saul by his own hand or the hand of one of his men, Abishai. David passes the test. In 26:23 David states that "God rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness." How can we see David's righteousness (godly character) and faithfulness (faith in his God) evidenced in the following :

a. 26:6-12 David and Abishai in Saul's Camp

b. 26:13- 16 David's speech to Abner

c. 26:17-20 David's words to Saul

2. List some of the ways you see God's providence and protection over David, his anointed, throughout this chapter.

3. Review 1 Samuel 25: 25-31. What are some of the lessons that David learned from Abigail and put into practice in this encounter with Saul? In the Book of James we are told to be doers of the word. Can you share something you have put into practice in your life as a result of hearing God's Word?

4. We read in 26:21 that Saul says " I have acted foolishly". How has Saul demonstrated his foolishness both in this incident and in the past? See Proverbs 10:8; 11:29,12:15 and 15:15, 26:11.

5. David chose not to harm Saul which opened the door to allow God to give him a final chance to repent. How did Saul respond? What does that teach you about God's love, mercy and our obedience when witnessing to the unsaved?

