

Refine Women's Ministry

**David Lesson 8: The Spear of the LORD'S Anointed - 1 Samuel 26**

March 28, 2018 by Kim Peelen

Then Samuel said, "Has not the LORD anointed you [Saul] a ruler over His inheritance?" 1 Samuel 10:1

"Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm." Psalm 105:15

I have found David My servant; with My holy oil I have anointed Him. Psalm 89:20

"We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). John 1:41

David continues to be our model of a worthy servant of Jesus Christ as he fulfills his calling from the LORD with *all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace* Ephesians 4:1-3. When Nabal refuses David's peaceful request to repay his men with food and supplies after protecting his flocks, he uncharacteristically reacts to the situation with wrathful revenge: "*Surely in vain I have guarded all that this man has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; and he has returned me evil for good. May God do so to the enemies of David, and more also, if by morning I leave as much as one male of any who belong to him.*"

However, God uses Abigail to intercede before David acts. She provides provisions for his men, requests forgiveness for the insult to him and his men, and confronts him for intending to shed innocent blood. Finally, she prophetically reminds David of God's plan: "*for the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house. . . the lives of your enemies He will sling out as from the hollow of a sling. . . and when the LORD does for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and appoints you ruler over Israel, **this will not cause grief or a troubled heart to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord having avenged himself** (1 Samuel 25: 28-31).* David immediately confesses, "*Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me, and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed and from avenging myself by my own hand (v.32-33).* Ten days later, God in His perfect time, kills Nabal with a stroke, returning his evil upon his own head. Although David successfully resists shedding innocent blood this time, he will have another opportunity to leave the punishment of his enemies to the LORD.

**Ziphites Betray David, version 2.0: 1 Samuel 26: 1-8**

The residents of Ziph once again spot David in their wilderness so send the information via a delegation to Saul in Gibeah. Saul gathers 3,000 chosen men of Israel who hunt David in the hill of Hachilah (somewhere between Ziph and the Dead Sea) in Jeshimon, which is the wilderness of Judea. David has his own intelligence gatherers who locate Saul, Abner (Saul's cousin and commander of army), and the chosen men camped for the night.

David sees another opportunity to plead his case before Saul, so he and Abishai (his sister Zeruiah's son and brother to Joab) enter the sleeping army's camp, *and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with **his spear** stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with **the spear** to the ground with one stroke."* Another trusted servant of David interprets Saul's vulnerable situation as God's opportunity to permanently remove him.

## David Submits to The Holy Spirit, Again: 1 Samuel 26:9-12

Abishai offers to end David's undeserved suffering by killing the mentally unstable Saul, which will allow David to begin his rule as king. However, David interprets the situation differently, seeing it as a test of his reliance upon God to remove Saul as king. *But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for **who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?**" David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish. The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go." So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.*

David remembers wanting his own revenge on Nabal rather than waiting upon God, but then watches God fittingly punish Nabal (and not his entire household as David planned) as well as give Abigail to him as his wife. So he refuses Abishai's offer, trusting that God will install him king over Israel in His perfect time and way. But he takes Saul's spear and a jug of water to prove he had Saul's life in his hand.

## David Taunts Abner, Saul's Army Commander: 1 Samuel 26: 13-16

Using the mountains to project his voice from a distance, David rouses Abner from sleep to point out his failure to protect the king. *"Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came to destroy the king your lord. This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, all of you must surely die, because you did not guard your lord, the LORD's anointed. And now, see where **the king's spear** is and the jug of water that was at his head."*

David holds in his hand the spear that represents the power of the throne, snatching it while Saul's guards surround him. The same spear Saul hurled at David while playing his harp to soothe the king's anguished soul and also intended to pin his son Jonathan to the wall after he tried to defend his friend David (1 Samuel 18:10-11, 19:9-10, 20:33). David points out that Abner deserves to die for his failure to protect the king, while ironically he, David, remains innocent of charges against him. Saul immediately recognizes David's voice and asks, *"Is this your voice, my son David?"* - addressing him on personal terms, just like the last time he spoke to David after he spared his life in the cave.

## David's Request of The LORD'S Anointed: 1 Samuel 26:18 - 20

Capitalizing on the situation, David asks Saul, *"Why then is my lord pursuing his servant? For what have I done? Or what evil is in my hand? Now therefore, please let my lord the king listen to the words of his servant. If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering; but if it is men, cursed are they before the LORD, for they have driven me out today so that I would have no attachment with the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.' Now then, do not let my blood fall to the ground away from the presence of the LORD; for the king of Israel has come out to search for a single flea, just as one hunts a partridge in the mountains [impossible to catch]."*

David suggests two reasons for Saul's pursuit: first, either David sinned against the LORD, in which case he would offer a sacrifice to atone for it, or second, evil men have stirred up Saul's hatred against David, then they should be judged. David grieves because his exile detaches him from *the inheritance of the LORD*; removal from Israel forces him to abandon true worship because there is no other sanctuary to worship the One True God. This reality is the deepest hurt to the man after God's heart!

### David Trusts The LORD – 1 Samuel 26:21 – 25

*Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."*

*David replied, "Behold the spear of the king! Now let one of the young men come over and take it. **The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today**, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed. Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so **may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.**"*

*Then Saul said to David, "Blessed are you, my son David; **you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.**" So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.*

Saul confesses that his sin is against David - not against the LORD - and his foolishness is just an error in judgment rather than an affront to God. In stark contrast, David does not kill God's anointed king even though the LORD delivers Saul to him because he desires to be righteous and faithful and highly valued before the all-knowing Judge. He also trusts in God's complete protection and deliverance from all his trials.

### The LORD's Anointed

**Anoint [mashach Hebrew]** means to appoint, or qualify for a special dignity, function or privilege. It's in this sense that the word is applied to Christ (Heb 1:9; Ps 2:2; Da 9:25), [distinct from anointing oneself with oil/perfume]. *International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*  
**Anointed [mashiach Hebrew]** Messiah or anointed one

**Christ** [chrio Greek] means The Anointed One, Messiah

In our study of David, God commands Samuel the prophet to anoint Saul the first king of Israel. Because Saul disobeys the LORD'S command, he is disqualified as leader and Samuel anoints his replacement, David; yet, Saul continues to hold his office and rule over God's people. What is the purpose of God to have two 'official' kings? It is puzzling because Saul proves to be unstable and unwise in his rule, while David demonstrates wisdom, skill, and integrity in all areas of his young life. How similar David is to Jesus, the Messiah, who though anointed king, must suffer undeservedly during His time on earth before taking His throne.

Isaiah prophesies of the Messiah: *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the **throne of David** and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice*

and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (Is. 9:6,7).

In both Old and New Testament, David is promised an enduring house, an eternal throne over God's people, and Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that prophecy as He attests in the gospels: *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' And Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.'* Matthew 16:13-17

For our group time, we will examine David's Psalm 22, "written one thousand years before the first coming of Christ, this psalm reads as if it were actually recorded by a person standing at the foot of the cross. The very words spoken by Christ from the cross, as well as His thoughts and injuries He suffered are recorded here. David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, sets forth in this psalm a graphic portrayal of the cross hundreds of years before the crucifixion was even invented as a form of capital punishment. With the precision of an eyewitness observing the crucifixion of the LORD Jesus Christ, David, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, wrote the most detailed description of the cross found anywhere in Scripture. Here is David's preview of the cross, a masterpiece that has been called 'the fifth gospel,' and 'the gospel according to David.'" Steve Lawson, *Holman Old Testament Commentary Psalms 1-75*.

## Psalm 22

For the choir director; upon Aijeleth Hashshahar [hind of the dawn]. A psalm of David

- 1 My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.
- 2 O my God, I cry by day, but Thou dost not answer; and by night, but I have no rest.
- 3 Yet Thou art holy, O Thou who art enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 In Thee our fathers trusted; they trusted, and Thou didst deliver them.
- 5 To Thee they cried out, and were delivered; in Thee they trusted and were not disappointed.

### 1. What is the source of Jesus's anguish?

### 2. What truth gives Jesus hope in His suffering?

- 6 But I am a worm, and not a man, a reproach of men, and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me sneer at me; they separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying,
- 8 "Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; let Him rescue him, because He delights in him."
- 9 Yet Thou art He who didst bring me forth from the womb; Thou didst make me trust when upon my mother's breasts.
- 10 Upon Thee I was cast from birth; Thou hast been my God from my mother's womb.

### 3. Describe the ridicule Jesus faces and what encourages Him as He endures it?

11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help.  
12 Many bulls have surrounded me; strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me.  
13 They open wide their mouth at me, as a ravening and roaring lion.  
14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me.  
15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and Thou dost lay me in the dust of death.  
16 For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet.  
17 I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me;  
18 They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

**4. What imagery does the psalmist use to describe the evil mockers?**

**5. Note any prophecies fulfilled by Jesus' crucifixion so far in the psalm.**

19 But Thou, O LORD, be not far off; O Thou my help, hasten to my assistance.  
20 Deliver my soul from the sword, my only life from the power of the dog.  
21 Save me from the lion's mouth; and from the horns of the wild oxen Thou dost answer me.

**6. Where is Jesus placing His hope?**

22 I will tell of Thy name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise Thee.  
23 You who fear the LORD, praise Him; all you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him.  
24 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither has He hidden His face from him; but when he cried to Him for help, He heard.  
25 From Thee comes my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him.  
26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!  
27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before Thee.  
28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S, and He rules over the nations.  
29 All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive.  
30 Posterity will serve Him; it will be told of the LORD to the coming generation.  
31 They will come and will declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has performed it.

**7. What are the results of Jesus's victory at the cross over sin and death?**

**Summary:** How marvelous God's Word is! From beginning to end, it is God's story of redeeming sinful man through His Son, the Christ, who through His righteous life on earth and His atoning death satisfies God the Father's requirement to punish all iniquity. Though we are studying David, a REMARKABLE man after God's heart, he is but a shadow pointing to the perfect God-Man Jesus Christ our Savior. This week fill your heart and mind with songs of thanks for God's Anointed One, Our Risen King!

**Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted** by Thomas Kelly/ Trudy Poirier

Stricken smitten and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree  
'Tis the Christ by man rejected, Yes my soul 'tis He 'tis He  
Yet David's LORD, By His Son God now has spoken, He's the true and faithful Word

You who think of sin but lightly, Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate  
Mark the sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load  
He's the Word the LORD'S Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God

**Homework for Chapters 27 – 28**

1. Reread Psalm 22 and record any insights or thoughts about Jesus Christ's work on the cross. Some references: Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19, Isaiah 53:3-8, Zech. 2:10, 2 Cor. 5:21;

2. Read Psalm 103. Record what David reminds the believer to remember as he call us to Bless the LORD.

3. Read 1 Samuel 27 and 28 for next time.

4. For further study of anoint: Look up 1 John 20, 27, what does it say about anointing with respect to the believer? Compare with 2 Cor. 1:21 -22, Ephesians 1:13, 14; and 1 Cor. 2:9-16. What do you learn about the true believer?

**Resources:**

Precept Upon Precept: 1 Samuel-God's Search for a Man After His Own Heart, 2013

*Preaching The Psalms: Unlocking the Unsearchable Riches of David's Treasury* by Steven J. Lawson, 2014

*Holman Old Testament Commentary: Psalms 1-75*, General Editor Max Anders, author Steven J. Lawson, 2003

Blue Letter Bible