

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE AGAIN

- Whatever Saul's feelings were at the end of chapter 24, he has now returned to his old ways.
- One of the most important differences between these two stories (chapters 24 and 26), is that David spares Saul's life now, knowing that any hope for a real change in Saul is gone.

SAUL REMAINS _____

1 Samuel 24:17-22, *He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house." And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.*

- Saul didn't follow through with his apology and confession that he made to David in chapter 24.
- The only thing that Saul is trying to follow through with now is his irrational and unjust plan to kill David.

DAVID IS GROWING IN _____

1 Samuel 25:12-13, *So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this. And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David.*

- In the previous chapter, David was on his way to kill a bunch of guys because they didn't give him and his men food.
- But then Abigail intervenes with wisdom and speaks with David, and he receives that wisdom.

1 Samuel 25:26, *Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal.*

1 Samuel 26:9, *But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be guiltless?"*

- God has messages of wisdom from previous chapters of our lives, and that wisdom is meant to be carried with us as we go into our next chapter.
- Carrying that wisdom means humbly submitting to God's wisdom in our lives rather than pridefully thinking, "I got this" or "this feels right."

DAVID IS GROWING IN _____

1 Samuel 26:9-10, *But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be guiltless?" And David said, "As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish.*

- In verse 38 of the previous chapter, it says that about ten days later the LORD struck Nabal, and he died. The same word is used by David here in chapter 26 for one possibility of what the Lord could do to Saul.
- One of the things that faith can create in us is an informed imagination to help us ponder, "maybe God will provide in this way", or "deliver in this other way."
- Sometimes what God does goes beyond the imagination!

Ephesians 3:20-21, *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

1 Samuel 26:23-24, *The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the LORD'S anointed. Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the LORD, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation.*

- We would almost expect David to tell Saul "I have valued your life, now you value mine."
- But David doesn't trust Saul for blessing, deliverance, or anything in his future…David puts all his hope in God.
- Trusting God is why David can value Saul's life and extend mercy to God's anointed.
- The end of the relationship between David and Saul is the same as the beginning of their relationship as well:

1 Samuel 17:37, *And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"*

- Trusting God's deliverance is why David can now value Saul's life and extend mercy to God's anointed.

THE WORK OF FOLLOWING THROUGH

1 Samuel 26:23, *The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness…*

Romans 1:17, *For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed —a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

Romans 3:25-26, *God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood —to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished — he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

Hebrews 12:1-2a, *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith…*

Ephesians 3:14-19, *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*