

1. David's heart hungered after God, even though he had some colossal failures. Saul was only interested in being honored and loved himself.

2. David's bad decisions:

a. David's lie to Ahimelech the priest indicated a lack of trust in God. He should have inquired of God before he went there.

i. Jesus refers to this incident to make the point that ceremonial law is not to be viewed in a legalistic way.

b. David should not have gone to Achish, King of the Philistines. Realizing his mistake, he feigns madness and is driven away.

i. Psalm 34 is written in response to this incident and helps us understand what David was thinking and experiencing at this time.

3. Psalm 56 should be read line-by-line, imagining what David was referring to in each verse from this story as you read. Psalm 142 can also be read this way.

4. After David's debacle at Nob and near fatal flight to Gethsemane, a prophet of God comes to him and tells him to go back to Judah and hide in the forest there where God will protect him.

1. Reading the Psalms in conjunction with the events that inspired them, make them come alive.
2. David knew he was in trouble and had put Ahimelech the priest in a terrible position as soon as he got there, because Doeg the Edomite was there and in the employ of King Saul.
3. Psalm 52 is an imprecatory Psalm, written after he learns the fate of Ahimelech and his family. He leaves vengeance to God and has unshakable faith that God will deliver him.
4. Four observations about the incident at Keilah:

1. Great people learn from their mistakes. David learned an enormous lesson from the events recorded in I Samuel 22 and 23. Now he asks the counsel of the Lord before he acts. God is willing to give direction to His people if they will only ask AND obey.
2. He inquired of God using the 'Urim and Thummim'. They were found on the ephod (tunic) of the priest and used to find out God's will in specific situations. With the rise of the prophets, the use of the Urim and Thummim fades from use.
3. Saul is still king, but David is the deliverer.
4. The people of Keilah desert him after he delivers them. David understands that only God can be counted upon totally.

Jesus experienced the same thing with both Judas Iscariot and Peter and all the rest of the disciples.

Psalm 54 shows us David falling back on the promises and the faithfulness of God.

5. God's methods of delivering David and his men:
 1. Jonathan's intercession saves David. He wanted God's plan to succeed and the Lord to be glorified.
 2. David dodged the javelin Saul threw at him.
 3. His wife let him down through the window (like Rahab and the spies, and the apostle Paul).
 4. The Spirit of God fell on the servants and then on Saul when they were coming to capture David.
 5. Abiathar used the Urim and Thummim to predict the response of the people of Keilah.
 6. God used the Philistine army's attack to deliver David as he was surrounded by Saul's army.
6. Psalm 63, we believe, originated in this period. Some think it refers to 2 Samuel 15 and 16. What we need to recognize in it is David's trust in God. "Your love is better than life." "My lips will glorify you".

1. I Samuel 24 is a key passage of Scripture.
2. David's actions are an excellent example to us of how people act who truly trust God when presented with the opportunity to avenge themselves on their enemies.

1. David's understanding of authority:

“David's understanding of authority and of the importance of waiting for God's timing is so strong, he will do nothing to unseat the present king or to usurp the power that Saul has already forfeited...he exhibits humility.”

David had respect for the office into which God had placed Saul and believed only God had the right to remove him from that office.

God is sovereign over both our society and our church. He establishes kings and ecclesiastical authorities and removes them when it pleases Him.

We respect the office even when we do not respect the one who occupies it. People who abuse and disrespect their leaders will not experience God's blessing.

2. David's understanding of vengeance:

“Vengeance is mine, says the Lord, I will repay.” David understood that.

He demonstrates this again with Nabal - he leaves justice to God.

I Peter tells us that Jesus did the same; He “...entrusted Himself to the one who judges justly...”

Jesus told us: “Bless those who curse you, do good to those who spitefully use you.”

David “heaps coals of fire” on Saul's head by NOT harming him - Saul is stricken with guilt.

3. “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that he may lift you up at the proper time.” I Peter 5:6). That is exactly what David did.

4. Abigail is wise, and when Nabal dies, she becomes David's wife. Michal had been taken away from him by King Saul.

She is a peacemaker.

She is an intercessor, like Moses, Jeremiah, and Paul - who all point us to the One person who could and did take the blame for others.

She has the attitude of Christ. Nabal is like the rich fool Jesus described for us in the Book of Luke.

1. When the God of heaven has determined to bless someone, He cannot be thwarted.

2. Attempt #8 on David's life by King Saul again fails miserably. David is able to sneak into Saul's camp and take his jug and spear, but again sparing Saul's life. It is very similar to, but separate from, the previous incident when he cut off the hem of Saul's garment.

3. David is patient, but not perfect; Abigail kept his anger from becoming a lapse of faith in yesterday's incident.

4. He is also susceptible to discouragement and depression. He was not thinking clearly, nor did he ask for God's direction, when he went back to the Philistines at Gath.

5. King Achish did not want David and his 600-man private army, so he gave him the city of Ziklag, which has been part of Judah ever since.

6. Someone other than Samuel added this note about Ziklag and recorded Samuel's death.

7. 2 Samuel mentions the book of Jashur as one of the sources from which its material may have been drawn. Other sources (mentioned in Chronicles) are the annals of King David, the records of Samuel the Seer, the records of Nathan the Prophet, and the records of Gad the Seer.

8. At this time, David's troops were growing and being formed into well-disciplined fighting units.

9. "...when you don't stop to ask the will of the Lord, and when you proceed to make your own arrangements, you very often find yourself outside the protective umbrella of His perfect plan, and you are forced to live by your own wits."

10. David used deception to gain Achish's trust, but the king's advisors did not trust David.

11. David was not at this time enjoying a good relationship with the Lord. He does appear to have written any Psalms during this period.

1. Saul's strange and desperate encounter with the witch of Endor:

1. There are no ghosts!

“It is appointed unto man once to die and then comes the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)

“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:7,8)

Jesus' story of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) and its lessons:

- a. There is an afterlife where human beings live on after physical death in a state of blessed rest or conscious torment.
- b. Immediately after physical death, the soul, now separated from the body, passes into its eternal state.
- c. God has not allowed for the possibility of communication between those who have gone before and those who are left behind.

2. So what is happening then in the story we read today?

Views:

- a. It was merely the result of psychological impressions.
- b. A demon or Satan impersonated Samuel.
- c. It was a deliberate imposture practiced on Saul.
- d. *It was genuine appearance of Samuel brought by God Himself. God is sovereign, and suspended the rules like He did on the Mount of Transfiguration when Elijah and Moses met with Jesus. This is the view taken by most Christian scholars.

2. Resorting to a medium was a great sin for Saul - and it is for us too.

It is dangerous because it opens us up to the influence of demonic powers. Palm readers, tarot cards, fortunetellers, mediums - all are very dangerous occult practices.

3. Chapters 29 and 30: The Amalekites have attacked Ziklag, burned it down, and taken all the inhabitants as prisoners of war. David's men want to stone him because it is his fault.

David found strength in the Lord His God. God had gotten his attention and he turned back to his God.

Strengthening oneself in the Lord is the best cure possible for depression, when you are right at the bottom of the pit. For the first time in a long time, David calls for Abiathar the priest and the ephod and says, “It is time to pray.”