

1 Samuel 21:6-23 – The Antichrist

October 2, 2022

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 2:18 (ESV)

...and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

1 John 4:3 (ESV)

Background

1. Saul was at ease in Gibeah.

Now Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men who were with him...

1 Samuel 22:6a (ESV)

...Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him. 1 Samuel 22:6b (ESV)

And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men. 1 Samuel 22:2 (ESV)

And Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, people of Benjamin;...

1 Samuel 22:7a (ESV)

• Saul was guilty of nepotism. He gave positions of leadership not to the qualified but to his friends.

...will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, that all of you have conspired against me? No one discloses to me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day." 1 Samuel 22:7b-8 (ESV)

• Saul bought loyalty by gifting property and positions to gain favor.

• Saul lived in paranoia, and his mind was filled with conspiracy theories because his evil thoughts against David infiltrated all his relationships.

• What we put in our brains will determine the direction of our life. We must guard what we put into our minds and take captive to Christ the thought we ponder.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

...take every thought captive to obey Christ,.. 2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)

Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, and he inquired of the LORD for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."
1 Samuel 22:9–10 (ESV)

- Don't be surprised when people add to a story to make it fit their agenda.
- Don't be surprised when people hold back parts of a story to make it fit their agenda.
- Don't always trust what people say unless there is more than one witness.

"A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established."
Deuteronomy 19:15 (ESV)

Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day. Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. Selah
Psalm 52:1–3 (ESV) — This Psalm was written by David about Doeg's lies to Saul.

2. Saul called the priests to Gibeah.

Then the king sent to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob, and all of them came to the king.
1 Samuel 22:11 (ESV)

And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." ... 1 Samuel 22:12a (ESV)

*...And he answered, "Here I am, my lord."
1 Samuel 22:12 (ESV)*

And Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?" 1 Samuel 22:13 (ESV)

Then Ahimelech answered the king, "And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and captain over your bodyguard, and honored in your house?" 1 Samuel 22:14 (ESV)

- Christians are not quiet quitters. We do our best for the Lord even if our boss is difficult.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,...
Colossians 3:23 (ESV)

Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little." 1 Samuel 22:15 (ESV)

And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house." 1 Samuel 22:16 (ESV)

And the king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the LORD. 1 Samuel 22:17 (ESV)

- When we refuse to participate in sin at work, be prepared that may cost us our work.

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28 (ESV)

Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword. 1 Samuel 22:18–19 (ESV)

- While people are responsible for their sinful choices, God is bigger than sin. God can take the sin done to us, and the sin done by us and use it to accomplish his good purposes. This is why we do not lose hope.

Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. Then in distress you will look with envious eye on all the prosperity that shall be bestowed on Israel, and there shall not be an old man in your house forever. The only one of you whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep his eyes out to grieve his heart, and all the descendants of your house shall die by the sword of men. 1 Samuel 2:31–33 (ESV)

...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. Acts 2:23 (ESV)

...for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. Acts 4:27–28 (ESV)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (ESV)

3. Abiathar escaped and was protected by David.

But one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. 1 Samuel 22:20 (ESV)

And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.
1 Samuel 22:21 (ESV)

And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house. Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping." 1 Samuel 22:22–23 (ESV)

Applications

- This chapter shows us the danger of sin.**
 - Saul shows us that continuing in sin can lead us to do things we never thought we could do.** Saul went from the chosen king of Israel (1 Samuel 11) to an antichrist figure that attempted to genocide the priests of God (1 Samuel 22) because he was consumed by hatred and jealousy.
 - David shows us how our sin affects others.** David's lies to Ahimelech contributed to the death of almost all of his family. Sin does stay in a box. When we sin, other people suffer.
- This chapter shows us how to respond to sin.**
 - David owned his sin and took responsibility to help those hurt by his sin.**
 - Saul blamed others for his sin. He made others suffer for the sinfulness of his heart.**
- Just as David protected Abiathar from Saul's unjust wrath by the guarantee of his life, Jesus protects us from God the Father's just wrath against our sin by giving his life.**

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. John 5:24 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

- What is one thing you didn't understand from the message? What from the message stuck out as important?
- Saul shows us how sin that is tolerated can transform a life. Share examples of how people who tolerated sin found it leading them to places they never dreamed they would go.
- David shows us that when we sin, other people always suffer. In this world, how have you seen sin in one life create great hurt in someone else's life? (See Joshua 7 for an example.)
- What can we learn about how to handle our sin from the different ways David and Saul responded to their sin?
- Doeg took advantage of Saul's anger to entice him into great evil. What can we learn about the way Doeg enticed Saul into sin so we can guard ourselves against modern-day Doegs that will try and entice us into sin?
- Read Philippians 4:8 and 2 Corinthians 10:5. As we reflect on Saul's life, what we can we learn from him about the importance of guarding our thought life? Our Internet habits? The friends we allow into our world?