

## 1 Samuel 26 – The Spear Makes The Point

October 30, 2022

### Background

#### 1. David spared Saul... Again!!

*Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Is not David hiding himself on the hill of Hachilah, which is on the east of Jeshimon?” 1 Samuel 26:1 (ESV)*

*Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon? 1 Samuel 23:19 (ESV)*

- There is a difference between empty repentance and genuine repentance. Genuine repentance comes with a change of heart and making different choices.

*So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. 1 Samuel 26:2 (ESV)*

*And Saul encamped on the hill of Hachilah, which is beside the road on the east of Jeshimon... 1 Samuel 26:3a (ESV)*

*...But David remained in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness, 1 Samuel 26:3b (ESV)*

*David sent out spies and learned that Saul had indeed come. 1 Samuel 26:4 (ESV)*

*Then David rose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, with Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Saul was lying within the encampment, while the army was encamped around him. 1 Samuel 26:5 (ESV)*

*Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Joab’s brother Abishai the son of Zeruiah, “Who will go down with me into the camp to Saul?” And Abishai said, “I will go down with you.” 1 Samuel 26:6 (ESV)*

*So David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay around him. 1 Samuel 26:7 (ESV)*

Then Abishai said to David, "God has given your enemy into your hand this day...  
1 Samuel 26:8a (ESV)

...Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice." 1 Samuel 26:8b (ESV)

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

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. The LORD forbid that I should put out my hand against the LORD's anointed..." 1 Samuel 26:10–11a (ESV)

- If God allows us to get something we want, but it involves getting it sinfully, that is a test from God. It is not an opportunity from by God.

...But take now the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go."  
1 Samuel 26:11 (ESV)

So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away...  
1 Samuel 26:12a (ESV)

...No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen upon them. 1 Samuel 26:12b (ESV)

- When we face difficult times, look for little ways God helps and protects us.
- Like David, we must respect those God puts in a position of authority over us, even if we disagree with them.

*"You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people." Exodus 22:28 (ESV)*

*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*  
Romans 13:1 (ESV)

*Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.* 1 Peter 2:13–15 (ESV)

- David fought the temptation for revenge by turning his thoughts to God's justice and the lessons he learned from Nabal. When we are tempted to carry out revenge, we need to do the same.
- When we wait for God's solution to injustice rather than force our own solution, it always turns out better.

## **2. David was protecting Saul's life, not trying to take it.**

Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. 1 Samuel 26:13 (ESV)

And David called to the army, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Will you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered, "Who are you who calls to the king?"  
1 Samuel 26:14 (ESV)

And David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? Who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord. This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is and the jar of water that was at his head."  
1 Samuel 26:15–16 (ESV)

- David, not Abner, was the one who protected Saul that night.

Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?"...  
1 Samuel 26:17 (ESV)

...And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king." And he said, "Why does my lord pursue after his servant? For what have I done? What evil is on my hands?"  
1 Samuel 26:17–18 (ESV)

Now therefore let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it is the Lord who has stirred you up against me, may he accept an offering, but if it is men, may they be cursed before the Lord, for they have driven me out this day that I should have no share in the heritage of the Lord, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.' 1 Samuel 26:19 (ESV)

### 1. Sometimes, God leads people to pointless or wicked pursuits as a judgment on persistent sin.

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. Romans 1:28 (ESV)

### 2. The friends we keep around us can lead us to sinful choices.

Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."  
1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV)

Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth away from the presence of the Lord, for the king of Israel has come out to seek a single flea like one who hunts a partridge in the mountains." 1 Samuel 26:20 (ESV)

### 3. Saul had superficial repentance.

Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great mistake." 1 Samuel 26:21 (ESV)

And David answered and said, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it." 1 Samuel 26:22 (ESV)

- There is a difference between words of repentance and restoring trust.

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."

1 Samuel 26:23–24 (ESV)

- It is always right to do what is right. God always rewards us when we do the right thing, and we place our faith in God to handle the results.

He (Moses) considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. Hebrews 11:26 (ESV)

Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

1 Samuel 26:25 (ESV)

## Applications

1. **It is always right to do what is right. God always rewards us when we do the right thing and place our faith in God to handle the results.**
2. **Be careful whom we have as friends. The friends we keep around us can lead us to good choices or sinful ones.**
3. **Letting God handle injustices in our life always gives a better result than forcing our solutions and getting revenge.**

## Life Group Questions

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1. Read 1 Samuel 26. What is one thing you didn't understand from the message? What stuck out as important?
2. What does Saul's response to the Ziphites information about David's hideout teach us about the difference between empty and genuine repentance? See Matthew 3:8 and 2 Corinthians 7:9-11. In what areas of life am I prone to give empty instead of genuine repentance?
3. What enabled David to not kill Saul when he was given a second chance at his life, especially after Saul broke his promise of peace? (There is more than one answer to this question.) What lessons can we learn from David about the benefits of pursuing forgiveness, grace, and kindness to those who hurt us instead of jumping the opportunity for revenge?
4. David knew he needed to respect Saul as the one God put in the position of authority over the nation, even though Saul was a corrupt leader. How does this change the way we handle political discussion in our day? See Romans 13:1, 1 Peter 2:13-15, Titus 3:1, 1 Timothy 2:1-3.
5. In the last chapter, learned there were benefits of letting God carry out justice instead of taking matters into his own hands. What were the benefits of God's justice? How does this help us when we struggle with anger against those who hurt us?
6. It appears the friends that Saul kept around him convinced him David was a threat. What do these verses teach us about who we keep around us as friends? 1 Corinthians 15:33, 1 Corinthians 5:6, 2 Chronicles 13:7, Psalm 1, Proverbs 1:10-19, Proverbs 13:20
7. David learned it is always right to do what is right, and God will reward us when we trust Him to work out the results. Where do you struggle to do what is right? Where is it hard for you to believe that doing what is right and hard will bring the best result?