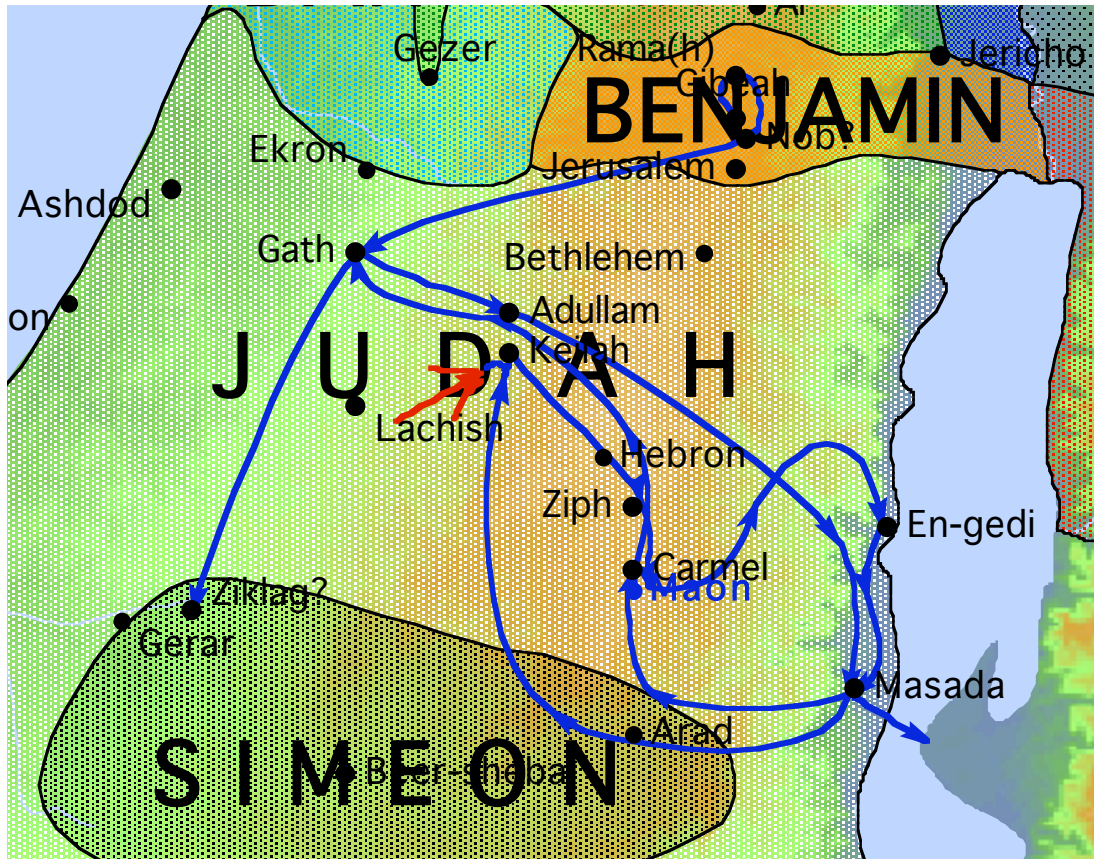


David Spares Saul Again & Again...



Passages: 1 Samuel 24 & 26

David Spares Saul the First Time: At En-Gedi

1 Samuel 24:1-7 – King Saul Seeks David and Visits the “Throne”

1Sam. 24:1 Now when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, saying, “Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.” 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats. 3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave. 4 The men of David said to him, “Behold, *this is* the day of which the LORD said to you, ‘Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.’” Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul’s robe secretly. 5 It came about afterward that David’s conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul’s robe. 6 So he said to his men, “Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD’S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD’S anointed.” 7 David persuaded his men with *these* words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on *his* way.

1 Samuel 24:8-15 – David Spares, Yahweh Judges

1Sam. 24:8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself. 9 David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men, saying, ‘Behold, David seeks to harm you’? 10 “Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but *my* eye had pity on you; and I said, ‘I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD’S anointed.’ 11 “Now, my father, see! Indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, and I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life to take it. 12 “May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you. 13 “As the proverb of the ancients says, ‘Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness’; but my hand shall not be against you. 14 “After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog, a single flea? 15 “The LORD therefore be judge and decide between you and me; and may He see and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand.”

1 Samuel 24:16-22 – Saul Announces David as Successor

1Sam. 24:16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept. 17 He said to David, “You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. 18 “You have declared today that you have done good to me, that the LORD delivered me into your hand and *yet* you did not kill me. 19 “For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safely? May the LORD therefore reward you with good in return for what you have done to me this day. 20 “Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. 21 “So now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s household.” 22 David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

David Spares Saul the Second Time: At En-Gedi

1 Samuel 26:1-5 – Sauls Takes His Thousands to Ziph to Find David

1Sam. 26:1 Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Is not David hiding on the hill of Hachilah, *which is* before Jeshimon?” 2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. 3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness, 4 David sent out spies, and he knew that Saul was definitely coming. 5 David then arose and came to the place where Saul had camped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army; and Saul was lying in the circle of the camp, and the people were camped around him.

1 Samuel 26:6-12 – David Went to the Center of Saul’s Camp and All He Got Was This Spear and Silly Jug

1Sam. 26:6 Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruah, Joab’s brother, saying, “Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?” And Abishai said, “I will go down with you.” 7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, 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. 8 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, and I will not strike him the second time.” 9 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?” 10 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. 11 “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.” 12 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.

1 Samuel 26:13-16 – David Taunts Abner For Sleeping on the Job

1Sam. 26:13 Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the mountain at a distance *with* a large area between them. 14 David called to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, “Will you not answer, Abner?” Then Abner replied, “Who are you who calls to the king?” 15 So David said to Abner, “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. 16 “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.”

1 Samuel 26:17-25 – Saul Confesses & Again Blesses David

1Sam. 26:17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king." 18 He also said, "Why then is my lord pursuing his servant? For what have I done? Or what evil is in my hand? 19 "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.' 20 "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."

1Sam. 26:21 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." 22 David replied, "Behold the spear of the king! Now let one of the young men come over and take it. 23 "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. 24 "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." 25 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.

Sacred Story: The Life of David
Week 10
1Samuel 24-26

STORY SPECIFICS

1. Look back several verses. What happened just before this passage begins?

2. Who are the main characters in the passage? Name and, as much as possible, describe their immediate situation and state of mind and soul in this passage. What do you see about them that makes them “real people” to you?

Focus Question:

a. How would you describe the atmosphere throughout the land of Israel while Saul was chasing David through the wilderness?

3. What words or phrases do you see repeated in the passage?

4. What possible themes could this passage be addressing?

STORY INTERPRETATION

1. How does this story fit into the larger story of David and how God is working through him to establish His kingdom?

Focus Questions:

a. What do you think David's men prayed for?

b. What might they have been thinking when Saul walked into their cave?

2. What do you understand of David from this passage that confirms him as a "man after God's own heart?"

Focus Question:

a. After murder attempts, displacement from home and land, years of hard living, and now golden opportunities to "make things better," what reasons does David give for not harming Saul?

3. David is a flawed man. What flaw(s) do you see in this passage, and how does David respond in situations where his flaws are exposed?

FROM DAVID'S STORY TO OUR STORY

1. How does this passage help you see what God could be doing in your story to accomplish something for His story (His kingdom)?

Focus Questions:

a. How do you respond to injustice in your world?
Do you typically act out in revenge (silently or loudly)?

b. Or positively, how can you know peace and contentment when suffering injustice?

2. How does David's recognition of and response to his flaws compare with yours?

3. How might the Spirit be transforming you to look more like Christ?

What would be different about you?

How has the work of Christ provided what you need to be transformed?

How will you respond to Him?

Focus Question:

- a. How can we have peace from the temptation for revenge and what effect can it have on our world? (cf 2 Cor. 5:11-21)