

DAVID - Part 2

Memorize Proverbs 14:12. Write it out here.

Take time to pray, asking God to be your teacher. Ask Him to make His ways, His truth, and Himself known to you as you study.

Much time passed and many events occurred between the time David was anointed and when he actually became king. After the defeat of Goliath, there were other military victories. David was successful in all that he did "because the Lord was with him". King Saul, however, became very jealous and attempted to kill him. David fled for his life with Saul in relentless pursuit. When we read about this time in David's life, two things stand out. **The first is God's faithfulness and sovereignty.** Time after time God miraculously intervenes through various people and events to save David. (I Samuel 18-23) We read that "Saul sought David every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand". **The second thing that we notice is that sometimes David responded by faith but other times in fear.** This week we will study about two times that David responded by faith in God.

Read Hebrews 11:32-34 and Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

Now read I Samuel 24 and 26. Read and re-read until you become very familiar with both chapters. Allow the Holy Spirit time to show you things. When you have done this, complete the rest of the lesson.

1. In your own words summarize the events of chapter 24.

In each chapter someone attempts to convince David that circumstances are such that it is evident that God has delivered Saul into David's hand to be killed.

2. Did David (and are we to) always view circumstances as an indication of God's will? Explain.

David has killed before, yet he is very hesitant to harm "the Lord's anointed." Look up "anoint" in a dictionary or a Bible encyclopedia. See also Exodus 30:26-30, I Samuel 10:1.

3. Why do you think David will not "stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed"?

In previous lessons we have learned that faith is believing that God is who He says He is and that He will reward those who seek Him. Those who seek God will desire to do things His way. (Psalm 119:2; John 14:15)

4. a. Had God revealed anything to His people in His Law that spoke to this situation? Read and summarize Leviticus 19:17-18.

b. What further instructions has God given us in Romans 12:17-21?

Never forget that David, a "man after God's own heart," was also a man of God's Word. We read in Proverbs 15:1 that "a gentle answer turns away wrath." That is exactly the effect that David's words and actions have upon Saul.

5. In I Samuel 24:8-11, how does David act toward and speak to Saul?

Saul responds by weeping and admitting that David is a more righteous man than he. He says, "When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed?"

6. What does Saul mean by this comment?

7. God's way is often quite different than man's way. Give some examples of "a way which seems right to a man" but is actually quite different from how God would have us respond.

The way of God

The way of man

One who lives by faith does things God's way even when it does not make sense.

8. a. In light of what Saul was attempting to do, why is his request in verses 24:20-21 rather presumptuous and ironic?

- b. David, Jonathan and Saul all knew that David was going to be king of Israel. What truth(s) does David seem to comprehend about being the man who is called to be king over God's people that Saul does not?

9. Now turn to chapter 26. Briefly describe what occurs in this chapter.

10. a. When you compare chapter 26 to chapter 24 what similarities do you see?

b. What differences do you see in the two encounters?

If time allows, read chapter 25. It relates an incident in which God used a very wise woman to keep David from committing a great evil. In chapter 25, God also struck down David's enemy. Turn back to chapter 26.

11. Why does David say that he will not harm Saul in verses 26:9-10?

12. a. It is interesting to note how often the word "hand" occurs in these two chapters. Underline "hand" each time you find it. According to verses 24:12, 24:15, 26:10, and 26:23-24 in whose hands was David leaving the matter?

b. In contrast, to what was Saul desperately trying to hold on? (I Samuel 20:31)

c. Is there something in your life that you are holding on to that you need to give to God by faith? (a hurtful relationship, a desire for revenge, broken dreams, a deep seated anger, the future, etc.)

d. Picture yourself holding whatever you thought of in the question above. Now, by faith give it to God, trusting Him to do what is best. Write down today's date and a statement yielding your rights in this matter to God.

When we leave things in God's hands, it means that we not only trust Him to work the situation out the way He thinks is best but we also yield to His timing. This is hard since, more often than not, it involves waiting.

13. List some of the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 who had to wait.

14. What factors made it hard for David to wait while the Lord acted in this matter between Saul and David?

15. a. In I Samuel 26:23, what is David convinced that God will someday do?

b. Compare this verse to Hebrews 11:1 and 6. How does this help you to wait?

16. We know that nothing happens in our life apart from God's loving consent. What good could possibly come from God allowing Saul's attacks on David to continue?

In his book, Waiting, Ben Patterson says, "... that at least as important as the things we wait for is the work God wants to do in us as we wait." (Romans 5:3,4)

17. Apply this quote to David and/or to yourself.

18. What did you learn about "living by faith" as a result of studying these two incidents in David's life?