

8-6-2025 – Journey with King David – Week 5 – The Wilderness, Pt. 2

David's fled from **Gibeah**, where King Saul lived. Now in the **Wilderness**.

Lessons: **2 purposes:** **(1)** Foundation/character building. **Preparation.**

(2) Draw closer to God . . . He's the most important thing we need.

More lessons to learn this week –**pick up in 1 Sam. 23.**

Left-off: David's moving from place to place, Jonathan has encouraged him.

God confirms the people of **Keilah/Ziph** will betray him to Saul.

1 Sam. 23 [NLT] – “²⁵ When David heard that Saul and his men were searching for him, he went even farther into the wilderness to the great rock, and he remained there in the wilderness of **Maon**. But Saul kept after him in the wilderness.

²⁶ Saul and David were now on opposite sides of a mountain. Just as Saul and his men began to close in on David and his men, ²⁷ an urgent message reached Saul that the Philistines were raiding Israel again. ²⁸ So Saul quit chasing David and returned to fight the Philistines. Ever since that time, the place where David was camped has been called the Rock of Escape.

²⁹ David then went to live in the strongholds of En-gedi.”

Maon – David learns here that **God changes things.**

- Looks like its over. Saul & David are on opposite sides of the Mtn.
But God knows how to protect us. He saves us from unnecessary fights.
 - o Mostly, we just need to be still; let God work.
 - **Sometimes God changes hearts– other times people – always situations**
 - o God intervenes for His beloved. He loves us; we need Him.
- **Lesson: learn to wait on God.**

Another lesson – Saul's jealousy continues to chase David, it hasn't gone away. We as people can't change that in others. Do what u can, give to God.

1 Samuel 25 – Saul is back pursuing David. Takes 3,000 of his best men.

³ At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave!

⁴ “Now’s your opportunity!” David’s men whispered to him. “Today the Lord is telling you, ‘I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.’” So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul’s robe. ⁵ But then David’s conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul’s robe. ⁶ He said to his men, ‘The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn’t attack the Lord’s anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him.’ ⁷ So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.”

Several points here:

- 1 - God speaks to us . . . be careful if others try to tell you what God is saying.
 - Other people may give us **advice**, usually it benefits them.
 - God gives us **wisdom** & His wisdom will benefit us & honor God.
- 2 – **Conscience** is the H.S. talking to us... preventing us from making mistakes.
 - Pay attention to it... Don’t ignore it. Listen for **God’s voice**.
- 3 – This is a **moment of maturity** for David. **Listen to God or people?**
That’s been the down-fall of many. Live with regret over those choices.
 - David chooses God. . . Recognizes that if he is to wear the royal robe, it **must come from the Lord’s hand and not his own**.
 - We are usually too eager to get there... we **take the bait**.
 - **God’s promotions** require **Him** to **prepare** us and **make a way**.
 - Saul’s kingdom ended b/c Saul didn’t obey God. He lifted up himself and built a monument to himself.
 - When God anoints us... He’ll make a way. We don’t need to force it.
 - **1 John 2:20** says that Believers “have an anointing from the Holy One” and we have the Holy Spirit that guides us with truth.
 - **We have a destiny... a purpose. Your palace awaits. Place.**
 - At the right time, when we are ready, God will open the door.
- 4 – There is a **symbolism** here, too.
 - This incident echoes [1 Samuel 15](#), where Saul tore Samuel’s robe.

- You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!" ²⁷ As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you."

Saul's robe represents his office: king. David's act is symbolic. Cutting off the corner of Saul's robe will remind Saul of the words from Samuel - the kingdom is torn from Saul and given to David.

After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way, ⁸ David came out and shouted after him, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him. ⁹ Then he shouted to Saul, "Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? ¹⁰ This very day you can see with your own eyes it isn't true. For the LORD placed you at my mercy back there in the cave. Some of my men told me to kill you, but I spared you. For I said, 'I will never harm the king - he is the LORD's anointed one. ¹¹ Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn't kill you. This proves that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though you have been hunting for me to kill me.

¹² "May the LORD judge between us. Perhaps the LORD will punish you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you. ¹³ As that old proverb says, 'From evil people come evil deeds.' So you can be sure I will never harm you. ¹⁴ Who is the king of Israel trying to catch anyway? Should he spend his time chasing one who is as worthless as a dead dog or a single flea? ¹⁵ May the LORD therefore judge which of us is right and punish the guilty one. He is my advocate, and he will rescue me from your power!"

Notice – David's proclaiming his innocence, but he's also proclaiming God.

- Saul, you're anointed by God, too. Did he anoint you for this?

David takes another step in **maturity** – puts **judgment in God's hands**.

- **Puts all in God's hands.** We take matters into our own hands...
- **Our lesson: Wait on God. How we get there matters.**

¹⁶ When David had finished speaking, Saul called back, "Is that really you, my son David?" Then he began to cry. ¹⁷ And he said to David, "**You are a better man than I am**, for you have repaid me good for evil. ¹⁸ Yes, you have been amazingly kind to me today, for when the LORD put me in a place where you could have killed me, you didn't do it. ¹⁹ Who else would let his enemy get away when he had him in his power? May the LORD reward you well for the kindness you have shown me today. ²⁰ And now I realize that you are surely going to be king, and that the

kingdom of Israel will flourish under your rule. ²¹ Now swear to me by the LORD that when that happens you will not kill my family and destroy my line of descendants!" ²² So David promised this to Saul with an oath. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went back to their stronghold. -- **1 Samuel 24**

- Saul sees the light, but doesn't mean he likes it. Or accepts it.
 - o He's been fighting this fate since Samuel told him.
- Saul sees that David is "the better man."
 - o And **David** has **assurance again** – his future is confirmed, sure.
 - God gives us assurances – "Godwinks" all along the way.
Some moment to say, you're on the right track!

Chapter 25 – David & Abigail. That's next week.

Chapter 26 – More betrayal, Ziphites tell Saul where David is staying.

Saul takes his 3,000 troops again... David sent scouts, finds his camp.

David goes at **night** with **Abishai**, all asleep.

⁸ Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice." ⁹ But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD's anointed and be guiltless? ¹⁰ As surely as the LORD lives," he said, "the LORD himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. ¹¹ But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."

¹² So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep.

Chance after chance to take Saul's life, but David would be promoting himself.

We live in a world of backstabbing. David shows us God's way: guiltless.

- **Wait on God's timing. In the waiting, we are prepared.**
 - o **If we were ready, no more waiting.**

And notice - **Every event** in David's story is the result of **God's sovereign hand**. His protection! He kept everyone asleep – 3,000 elite.

End of **Ch. 26** – **David** again appeals to Saul. Gives spear back to Saul.

²² "Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it. ²³ The LORD rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the LORD's anointed. ²⁴ As surely as I valued your life today, so may the LORD value my life and deliver me from all trouble."

²⁵ Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, David my son; you will do great things and surely triumph." So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

God rewards our righteousness. **Doing it the right way matters.**

The ends don't justify the means.

David will be king, b/c God promotes him. Not b/c David overthrows Saul.

Over many years, Saul pursues David, David twice lets him go.

- David's words are wasted on Saul . . . but we need to hear his words:
God saves us and protects us. **Wait for God to lift you up.**