

FINAL STUDY NOTES – *1 Samuel Chapters 25-26* 9/15-16/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

1 SAMUEL – Chapter 25 – Death of Samuel – (v. 1)! David and the Wife of Nabal (vs. 2-44)! Chapter 26 – David Spares Saul a Second Time (vs. 1-25)!

- **The period of history of David's life that we are presently entering into is not so glorious.** We are going to see some of David's weaknesses and failures. The bible is quite blunt. It does not paint man as perfect.
- **As I read of David's failure, I think, "Wow if God could use David like that when he failed, maybe God can use me"** because I am perfectly conscious of my own failures! There are times when I am tested of God, and I miserably fail. As David, there are times when I seek to take things into my own hands. It is wrong! But yet, I feel it. David felt it.
- **But that does not disqualify you from God's loving you, and God using you.** So when we fail, God deals with us, He corrects us, and brings us back on the path.

The Death of Samuel; David and Abigail, the Wife of Nabal

1Sa 25:1 Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.

- **So the death of this great man of God, Samuel,** and David's flight to Paran, which is in the area of Eilat, down towards Sinai. He really was moving far out of the reach of Saul. However he came back.

1Sa 25:2 Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel, and the man was very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

- **Now this is not Mount Carmel, this is a little village of Carmel,** which is about ten miles southwest of Hebron, between Hebron, and Arad.
- **Now the shearing of the sheep was always a time of festivities.** It was sort of in celebration of your blessings, of what God had done. Thus traditionally it was a time of giving gifts. Sharing the abundance. It was a time of thanksgiving, where you look for those that are less fortunate, and share with them.

1Sa 25:3 The name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail (joy of her father). **And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man was harsh and evil in his doings. He was of the house of Caleb.**

- **Whether or not he got that name at birth is questionable,** because the name means foolish, or folly. Maybe it was a nickname that he developed through the years, as his character began to be manifested.
- **Nabal was of the tribe of Judah.** The house of Caleb, you remember Caleb went down and took the area of Hebron, and possessed it for his family.

1Sa 25:4-8 When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep, [5] David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, go to Nabal, and greet him in my name. [6] And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity: 'Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have!' [7] Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds were with us, and we did not hurt them, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel. [8] Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David.' "

- **David sends ten of his young men to receive a gift from Nabal.** During the time of the shearing was a time of giving gifts, and so David sent his young men. Now at this point, he had around six hundred men with him. That could be a problem as far as feeding them. Six hundred men can eat a lot of food, so it takes a lot of supplies. So David is sending to Nabal, at this time of the giving of gifts, to help him out, to give the men some supplies for his men. Reminding him that David's men were there in the wilderness, where his sheep were being kept.
- **David, being from a shepherd's background, respected the sheep herders,** and had no doubt ordered his men not to rustle any of the sheep that were there. They protected them from the nomadic tribes, from the Bedouins and all. They became sort of a wall around them because David's men actually protected them from others. So, he said, "Check with your men, they'll verify that not a sheep of them, of their flocks were missing, while we were there among them, and around them." "Now it is sort of like a payoff for the protection that we provided. Send us some food."

1Sa 25:9-11 So when David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in the name of David, and waited. [10] Then Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master. [11] Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?"

- **Nabal must have known of David.** His reputation was quite great, and he knew that David was fleeing from Saul. But he saw David as sort of a runaway slave. "Who is David that I should help him? Who is this son of Jesse?" "I've provided for myself, and not for anybody else."

1Sa 25:12-13 So David's young men turned on their heels and went back; and they came and told him all these words. [13] Then David said to his men, "Every man gird on his sword." So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies.

- **They had their possessions.** Two hundred guys stayed to guard the possessions, four hundred men put on their swords to follow David. David is planning to do Nabal in!

1Sa 25:14-17 Now one of the young men (shepherd boys) **told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them**. [15] **But the men were very good to us, and we were not hurt, nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied them, when we were in the fields. [16] They were a wall to us both by night and day, all the time we were with**

them keeping the sheep. [17] Now therefore, know and consider what you will do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him."

- I mean Nabal is just a scoundrel! You cannot even talk to that man. He is just a cruel, crude man! *1Sa 25:18-20 Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. [19] And she said to her servants, "Go on before me; see, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. [20] So it was, as she rode on the donkey, that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them.*

- *Under cover of the hill. They met in the glen, down in a valley. There she came down the hill to meet David, in this glen, where he was with his men.*

1Sa 25:21-24 Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good." [22] May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light." [23] Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground. [24] So she fell at his feet and said: "On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.

- Abigail has taken responsibility. "It is my fault. It is not really that crude husband I have. I did not know that your young men came. I am the one that should have been responsible for hospitality, and so forth, I did not know they came. I found out later. So, put the blame on me."

1Sa 25:25-28 Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him! But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. [26] Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, since the LORD has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal. [27] And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord. [28] Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the LORD, and evil is not found in you throughout your days.

- *Since the LORD has held you back....from avenging yourself with your own hand.* This is really uncharacteristic of David to take vengeance for himself; it is David's normal tact to commit things unto God. Especially in the case of Saul. "If God wants to handle him, let God handle him, I'm not going to touch him!"
- **But even though we are people of faith, and even though we have great confidence and trust in God,** there are times when a person weakens, or can weaken. This was a time of David's weakness. He is caught up, he has been insulted by this mean-spirited man, by this son of Belial. His young men have been evil entreated. The guy has spoken disdainfully concerning David. So David says, "Okay, I am going to wipe him out, and all that he has. Come on guys, get your swords! David is now taking things into his own hands.
- **It is a failure on David's part, a lapse of David's confidence in God** that, "God will take care of it, I do not have to defend myself. God is my defense." In the Psalms, he speaks of God as his defense. "God is my rock, He is my high fortress, He is my high tower. In Him will I trust." Yet here is a case where this man who trusted so completely in God in so many other places, has this lapse or failure of trust in God, taking things into his own hands.
- **Whenever you are about to take things into your own hands, you are on the verge** of making a tragic mistake. How much better to commit our ways unto the LORD, trusting always in Him, and let Him bring things to pass, rather than to take things into my own hands.
- **How frequently do I take matters in my own hand, when I should be giving them to the LORD?**
- **Abigail is a beautiful woman. She also is sharp!** She comes to David and just is the picture of graciousness, and wisdom. What wisdom comes forth from her mouth! She knows that she is married to this mean-spirited man. Yet she is out to defend her husband. Her words to David are very well spoken.

She calls David, “my lord,” She acknowledging that the kingdom is going to belong to him. But when you come into the kingdom David, when you get into the place of prominence and all, you do not want this to be a blemish on your record. Your record’s been clean! You do not want this as a blemish on your record, feeling, “Oh that was a terrible mistake!”

- **Too often, we take rash actions. We move in the moment of anger**, and do things that later on, we are extremely sorry for. She said, “David you do not want this kind of a thing on your record. I know you are mad. You have a right to be mad! That husband of mine, he is just a mess, but David, do not let this blemish your record, giving you a guilty conscience over this.”
- **Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant**. In other words, she is again taking the blame. “I was, I just did not see them. I did not know they came.” “For the *LORD* will surely make my lord,” that is David, “*an enduring house*.” “He is going to put you on the throne.”
- “**Because my lord fights the battles of the *LORD***, but don’t you fight the battles of David.” Do you see that? That is a big difference! Out to defend the *LORD* is one thing, but out to defend yourself is another. It is much better to let the *LORD* be your defense!

1Sa 25:29 Yet a man (Saul) has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling.

- ***The life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God***. A beautiful, beautiful phrase. There is a many pursuing you, trying to kill you, but your soul is *bound in the bundle of the living*.” The bundle of joy, and it just talks about, just a bagful of life, or joy, or love. A person who is bound in the bundle of love with the *LORD*. It is a beautiful, picturesque speech! David, your life is precious in the sight of the *LORD*!
- ***The lives of your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling***. Far from being bound and kept together in union with the Fountain of life, *the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, forcefully and violently from Himself as from the pocket of a sling!* David was pretty handy with a sling, knowing all about a sling, and Abigail is using the sling, as an analogy.
- ***Do I thankfully see my life as being “In Christ”, wonderfully bound with the LORD and His slinging my enemies out of my life as a stone coming out of a slingshot? Oh, how wonderful is His love holding me close to Him, and His keeping me from foolish decisions!***

1Sa 25:30 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel,

- When you come to this position of the sitting on the throne, you will not have a bad conscience over this. David was on a mission to avenge himself. “He has spoken against me! I am going to teach him a lesson!” “No David, do not avenge yourself. Do not let that be on your conscience that you went out and destroyed this guy, Nabal!”

1Sa 25:31-33 that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself. But when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your maidservant.” [32] Then David said to Abigail: “Blessed is the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! [33] And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand.

- David said, “Hey, I just about blew it! I really was on the verge of making a tragic mistake.” He thanked her for coming out, and stopping him. Abigail must stand as one of those great women of the Old Testament. She indeed was a gracious, special person.

1Sa 25:34-36 For indeed, as the LORD God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal!” [35] So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, “Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person.” [36] Now Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was, holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal’s heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; therefore she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light.

- She got home and Nabal had been partying with his friends. He was just out of it, being very drunk. So, she let him sleep it off, not bothering to tell him what she had done, until morning.

1Sa 25:37-38 So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone (sobered up) from Nabal, and his wife had told him these things (that she had gone down to David), that his heart died within him (He had a heart attack.), and he became like a stone (comatose). [38] Then it happened, after about ten days, that the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.

- Nabal was so terrified at the apprehension of what he had escaped, that the fear overcame his mind, he became insensible to all things around him, probably refused all kinds of nourishment, and died in ten days.

1Sa 25:39 So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For the LORD has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head." And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife.

- The LORD took care of it! Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach! He took care of it! He defended me, and He kept me from avenging myself! Notice David's recognition of the LORD's hand in his life!
- **You have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand. How often to I go forward with avenging myself? Do I not know? (Heb 10:30b) "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY!" May I not forget this example of David!**

1Sa 25:40-42 When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife." [41] Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord." [42] So Abigail rose in haste and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife.

- Abigail was such a gracious woman. Here are David's servants, "Let me wash the feet of the servants of my lord."

1Sa 25:43-44 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and so both of them were his wives. [44] But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

- So Saul, when David was fleeing from him, took David's wife Michal, and let her marry another man. So David probably heard what Saul had done, and so he took both Abigail, and Ahinoam, as his wives.

David Spares Saul Again

1Sa 26:1-3 Now the Ziphites (always betraying David) came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?" [2] Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph. [3] And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon, by the road. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

- Previously David had fled. But this time he is staying there in the wilderness.

1Sa 26:4 David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul had indeed come.

- He had heard rumors, "Saul is coming," so he sent out his fellows to spy, and they came back and they said, "Yes, Saul's on his way!"

1Sa 26:5 So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Now Saul lay within the camp, with the people encamped all around him.

- Saul's army was around him, and there he was, lying in a trench in the center, with Abner, his bodyguard, and his chief general.

1Sa 26:6 Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother of Joab, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you."

- David is a very daring character! Here is Saul down there, surrounded by three thousand men! David sees them set up his lying in the trench. So, he said, "Hey who wants to go down there with me?" Abishai said, "I will go down with you!" He is just a fearless kind, making himself available here and at other times..

1Sa 26:7-8 So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him. [8] Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore,

please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

- Abishai says, "Man, *let me strike him at once!* I will take his spear, and I will just, you know, right through. One shot is all I need!"

1Sa 26:9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?"

- David said to Abishai, "**You cannot slay him!** This man has been anointed by God!"

1Sa 26:10 David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish."

- **The LORD shall strike him!** One of two ways, either he will die of old age or he will be killed in battle! I mean God will take care of him. I am not going to lay my hand! Here we see David is indeed doing the right thing! With Nabal, he was going to avenge himself! Now David is willing to commit to the Lord. The LORD will take care of him. His time will come to die, or he is going to perish in battle, but that's the LORD's business. I am going to leave him in the LORD's hands, and let Him handle this."
- **That is always wise. (Psa 37:5) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.** You do not have to take things into your own hands. Whenever I begin to take things into my own hands, it is when I really mess things up! It is so important to just learn to, "I will leave it with the LORD! He is my defense; He will take care of it!" It is a real turn around for David, from the previous chapter.
- **"As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him!" Not striking back but letting the LORD handle the matter! How well have I learned this?**

1Sa 26:11-12 The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go." [12] So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

- David would not harm Saul, but he did take the spear and the jug of water, which was evidence that he certainly had the opportunity to kill Saul.
- Surely, when Saul troops were all set up, there would have guards posted to be awake and all, to protect Saul. But they had all fallen asleep, a deep sleep from the LORD had come upon them.

1Sa 26:13 Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance being between them.

- **In that country, sound travels a long way.** It is amazing the way sound travels over there, in that atmosphere, or whatever. Maybe it is the rocks? But the sound travels tremendously. So David got a good distance away on the hill. It was probably still dark.

1Sa 26:14-16 And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Do you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered and said, "Who are you, calling out 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 in to destroy your lord the king." [16] This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jug of water that was by his head."

- Abner you are supposed to be his bodyguard. Someone came in to get your king, and you did not protect him. Man! You fell asleep on duty that's, that's death! You ought to be put to death Abner." Sure enough the spear was gone, and the jug of water was gone.

1Sa 26:17-19 Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is that your voice, my son David?" David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king." [18] And he said, "Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand?" [19] Now therefore, please, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering. But if it is the children of men, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.'

- Saul, who is it that stirred you up against me? If the LORD did, then let me offer a sacrifice to the Him. Let me get right with the LORD! If it is men that are stirring you up, then let them be cursed, because they have caused me and forced me to flee. I cannot live in my own country. They are forcing me to be driven out into other lands.

- **Remember in 2 Samuel chapter 16, when Absalom, had revolted against David**, and was coming with an army from Hebron, to take the throne by force. David fled from Jerusalem, going over the Mount of Olives, this guy Shimei, who hated David, was throwing dirt in the air, throwing rocks, and cursing at David, Abishai, this same guy said, “David let me go up, and I’ll kill that kid!” David said, “No. Maybe God has put on his heart to curse me. So leave him alone. Let him curse, let him throw his rocks, maybe it is of God.”
- **Now David is saying to Saul, “Hey if it is of the LORD, then let me offer a sacrifice, let me get right with Him. But if men have done this, then let them be cursed.”**
- **David says to Saul: “If it is of the LORD, let me get right with Him, but if it is of the LORD, let them be cursed!” What a powerful example this is for us!**

1Sa 26:20 So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD. For the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

- “You are seeking after me. Really you are seeking after nothing. Like seeking after a flea.”

1Sa 26:21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly."

- **Saul was caught by surprise.** He was awakened out of a sound, deep sleep, the scripture says, from the LORD. Awakened, and hearing the voice of David. Being awakened out of a sound sleep, his mouth started moving before his brain was in gear. In other words, he was not guarding now, himself. In an unguarded moment, he spoke what he knew to be the truth about himself. Looking back over his life, he, he had to confess, “I have been a fool. I have sinned. I have erred exceedingly.”
- **Every man knows the truth about himself**, though it may be buried deep down inside. We know the folly of our past. We know that we have done foolish things. We try to hide it. But deep inside, we know the truth that we have made many mistakes. Saul confessed the truth. “I’ve played the fool.”
- **As you look back at his life, that is surely accurate autobiography.** Here was a man who had every opportunity in the world of being a great man. God called anointed him to be a king, filling him with His Spirit, surrounded him with godly men. He had every opportunity. But he played the fool:
 - ✓ Because he **tried to hide from the call of God.**
 - ✓ Because he entered into the area of the priesthood **where he had no right** being, offering the sacrifice. Because his **heart became lifted up with pride.**
 - ✓ Because he **failed to submit his life totally to God**, and he rebelled against the order of God
 - ✓ Because he **always sought to excuse himself!** “I’ve played the fool.”
 - ✓ Because **he did not repent!**
- **How tragic it is for someone to come to the end of their life and have this be the honest assessment** of their life. Thankfully, if there is any of us here tonight, that are in a backslidden state, living a life of disobedience to God the way that Saul did, you do not have to end your life this way because of the privilege of repentance, confessing our sin, repenting, and then doing what it is that God has called us to do until we go to be with Him or He comes back to receive us.

1Sa 26:22 And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it.

- So one of the young men of Saul had to run over to the other side of the mountain, to get Saul’s spear.

1Sa 26:23 May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed.

- **Even as I have shown mercy to you, may God show mercy to me.**
- **David trusted in God who is the Blessor** of the righteous and the faithful. (*Heb 6:10*) *For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name.* David wanted the large measure of God’s mercy for himself, so David gave Saul the large measure of mercy. That generous measure of mercy will be a great blessing to David later in his life.

Sa 26:24 And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my (David's) life be valued much in the eyes of the LORD, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation."

- A very telling statement at this point in time. Saul, I pray that God will show me the same mercy I showed to you, and as your life was valuable in my hands, I pray that my life would be valuable in His.

1Sa 26:25 Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail." So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

- **For a moment, Saul really kind of comes to his senses.** What he speaks to David gives us a glimpse into the great tragedy that Saul's life. We get a flash of coherence, of honesty out of him, where you get a glimpse at the depth of the man that was inside him all along. We get a glimpse of that, but in Saul it was so covered over in his carnality and his disobedience that it never had a chance to see the sunlight and ever bloom. There was the potential for greatness in him, and he wasted it. Very sad! *(1Sa 27:4)* And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more. (1Ch 10:13) So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.
- **Saul went back to Gibeah, but David, in a lapse of faith, went to Gath.** Again, not trusting in God to fulfill His promise, and His word to put him on the throne, David again takes things in his own hands. He feels his only place of refuge and safety is just to get out of the country, to go to the land of the Philistines, "Surely Saul will not pursue me in the land of the Philistines."
- **There are places where you, as a child of God, have no business going.** If you do go into these places, then you are just really exposing yourself to further denials of the LORD. We will look at this next week; David's lapse of faith, and his fleeing to the land of the Philistines. After this parting, it does not appear that Saul and David ever saw one another again.
- ***(1Sa 26:25b)* You shall both do great things and also still prevail." How well do we realize that the LORD has great things for each of us to do in our lives, and if we are willing and available to Him, He will see them accomplished! Am I, are we, willing and available?**

SUMMARY

- ***How frequently do I take matters in my own hand, when I should be giving them to the LORD? (1Sa 25:28)***
- ***Do I thankfully see my life as being "In Christ", wonderfully bound with the LORD and His slinging my enemies out of my life as a stone coming out of a slingshot? Oh, how wonderful is His love holding me close to Him, and His keeping me from foolish decisions! (1Sa 25:29)***
- ***"You have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand." How often to I go forward with avenging myself? Do I not know? (Heb 10:30b) "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY!" May I not forget this example of David! (1Sa 25:39)***
- ***"As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him!" Not striking back, but letting the LORD handle the matter! How well have I learned this? (1Sa 26:10)***
- ***David says to Saul: "If it is of the LORD, let me get right with Him, but if it is of the LORD, let them be cursed!" What a powerful example this is for us! (1Sa 26:19)***

THE GREATEST THING — Mark Pendergrass (3:34/3:37)

The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you. The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you. I want to know you more. I want to know you more. The greatest thing in all my life is knowing you. The greatest thing in all my life is loving you. The greatest thing in all my life is loving you. I want to love you more. I want to love you more. The greatest thing in all my life is loving you. The greatest thing in all my life is serving you. The greatest thing in all my life is serving you. I want to serve you more. I want to serve you more. The greatest thing in all my life is serving you. I want to serve you more. I want to serve you more. The greatest thing in all my life is serving you

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 1 Samuel, Chapters 27-29!