

Life of David

Lesson 21

Text

1 Samuel 28:1-25

Background

After marrying his two new wives, Abigail and Ahinoam, we find David hiding in the hills of Hachilah and the Ziphites ratting him out to Saul. It's safe to say all the "oh David, I'm so sorry for trying to kill you" talk from Saul from chapter 24 was a long gone memory. Either that, or Saul is just crazy. It's probably both of those sprinkled with paranoia!

Chapter 26 provides us with a little déjà vu. Again, David had the opportunity to kill Saul where he slept and again David refused for the same reason. Verse 9 tells us, **"But David said to Abishai, 'Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD's anointed and be guiltless?'"** Instead of killing Saul, David took a couple souvenirs (Saul's spear and water jug) and fled to a distance away from Saul. After getting the attention of Abner and Saul, David again shows the mercy he showed to Saul, asks what crimes he's committed against him, and attempts to reason with him. Saul's reaction is like before as we read in verse 21, **"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.'"**

Realizing that Saul is paranoid, David realizes that he cannot continue to stay in the territories ruled by Saul, so he does something that would make the wisest man scratch his beard. He decides to pursue residence with the very kingdom that produced Goliath and is the enemy of the Israelites, the Philistines. During his time with the Philistines, David finds favor with Achish, the king, and gains the territory of Ziklag as his place to live. Much happened during his 16 months in Ziklag including deception by David towards Achish, which was studied last week. Now, as we head into chapter 28, let's see where the story picks up as we start getting towards the end of 1 Samuel.

Day 1 - Read and Listen

1. Read and/or listen to the passage twice. If possible, use different translations. I highly recommend having the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.

Day 2 - Observing the Text

- 2. Who are the characters listed in the passage? As much as the passage tells you, write down any titles, traits, or additional information about each of the characters in the narrative.

- 3. Where does the narrative take place? List out any locations mentioned. To be more specific, study a map from the timeframe of 1 Samuel (approximately 1105 - 971 BC) and see if you can find the locations on a map. Write down any observations from this exercise.

- 4. Summarize the main plot points from the passage in the space below.

Day 3 - Understanding the Narrative

- 5. Name one or more of the conflicts from the passage and how they were resolved or left unresolved.

- 6. How does the narrative fit into what you already learned about 1 Samuel? Consider, if applicable, the following: How does the narrative tie to the larger

picture of a coming royal priesthood? Do you see any foreshadowing of Jesus as King?

Day 4 - Additional Study

7. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

8. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links “purposeful parallels.” If so, write those down below.

9. **Word Studies:** Use the “Blue Letter Bible” or your favorite word study method to look up any words of your choice in the passage. Be prepared to share your findings with your group. Remember, this is the Old Testament. You will be looking up Hebrew words.

Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

10. **Application:** Desperation caused Saul to lean into something that was ultimately unsafe and to be avoided, in consulting a medium to speak to Samuel. As a

believer, there are times in life where we become desperate. Write down a time in your life where you were desperate for an answer, a healing, or anything else. What did you seek out in this desperation? Would you have done anything different?

11. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Reflections

As you've had time to meditate on this week's passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you'd like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

Notes from the Teaching

Teacher: _____ Date: _____
