

Life of David

Lesson 20

Text

1 Samuel 26:1 - 1 Samuel 27:12 (1 Chronicles 12:1-7)

Background

After sparing Saul's life and returning with his men to the stronghold, we read about the death of Samuel. Think back on Samuel's life for a moment. Think back to the story of faithful Hannah, the barren wife, who bore Samuel and then promised him to serve the Lord in return. Think back to how God used Samuel in dealing with the stiffnecked nation of Israel, in anointing Saul as king, announcing to Saul he was no longer going to be king, and eventually his work in bringing David into the fold as the next king of Israel. Reflect on the life of Samuel for a few moments.

As our story progresses, we now see David venturing on to the wilderness of Paran (remember to pull out your map from a few weeks ago) where he encounters Nabal and Nabal's wife Abigail. Nabal was a wealthy man that benefitted from the protection of David over his shepherds and flocks, but when David sought remuneration he was refused by Nabal. David did not take this refusal lightly and prepared 400 men to destroy Nabal and his estate.

Enter another faithful woman in the person of Abigail. In short, Abigail intercedes for her husband and quells the inevitable destruction coming to Nabal, showing faithfulness not only to her drunken husband, but also to all the shepherds and flocks that were in line of David's destruction. It took courage from Abigail to do this, as she risked her life to save primarily a name whose name means "fool."

While Nabal wasn't destroyed by David's hand, he was ultimately judged and punished by God. Abigail's intervention did not stop the hand of God from taking Nabal's life. At the end, David marries the widow of Nabal. As a side note, we also learn that David's other wife, Michal, was given to another man in marriage. Let's continue the story as we cover chapters 26 and 27 this week. Be sure to hop over to 1 Chronicles 12:1-7 for more context.

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:** Even the great “man after God’s own heart” David battled a sinful nature as shown in his deception of Achish in the latter part of chapter 27. The end of Psalm 14:3 tells us, “there is none who does good, not even one.” With these truths in mind, write down some thoughts on how these truths apply to you, how the enemy will use them against you, and how you can remind the enemy what Jesus did for you!

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: _____
