

Series: 1 Samuel: Harp and Spear XIII

Text: 1 Samuel 26:1-25

HI: Leave it to the Lord.

Title: *A Way Out*

Hook: Taking matters into your own hands: solving biggest issue

Date: 4.7.24

Purpose: To draw the listeners into the reality that the only way out of their problems is through trust in the Lord.

FCF: The text reveals God's grace in David's life, as the reader has a front-row seat to witness the Lord's chosen king entrust himself to the just and sovereign Lord.

COR: If you have an opportunity to solve your greatest perceived problem in an instant, even if the immediate solution violates God's command or character, would you take it?

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Wider CXT: 3rd and final of David's temptations in the wilderness to fast-forward to his kingdom rather than trust the Lord // Christ's temptations in the wilderness to do the same (Luke 4:1-13)

Apologetic: Restraint is not the path of power, at least not in our experience. What explains this narrative—written after David had become king—which magnifies the humility and self-control of the great king? This is a different ethic than we see in our world, and there's something about it that we know is right. Jesus shows us that self-sacrifice is the true path to glory.

Text Tone: Assurance

Preaching Voice: Sage

Form: Hourglass

Call to Worship: Psalm 28:7

Benediction: 1 Peter 4:19

Outline:

I. The Lord calls for trust in him when we're tempted to sin. (1-12)

A. David confronts Saul's pursuit. (1-5)

B. Abishai is ready to solve the problem. (6-8)

C. David is content to trust the Lord. (9-12)

II. The Lord rewards faithfulness in the wilderness. (13-25)

A. Look at Abner. (13-16)

B. Listen to David. (17-21)

C. Don't miss the spear. (22-25)

Main Idea:

Subject: How did David respond to the opportunity to end Saul and begin his kingdom?

Complement: With faith-filled patience and trust in the Lord's timing and justice.

Exegetical Idea: When David was given the opportunity to end Saul and begin his kingdom he responded with faith-filled patience and trust in the Lord's timing and justice.

Theological Idea: When tempted to take matters into his own hands, the Lord's chosen king established his rule through faithfulness and trust in the Lord.

Homiletical Idea: Leave it to the Lord.

Introduction:

READ 1 Samuel 26:1-12

26 Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding himself on the hill of Hachilah, which is on the east of Jeshimon?" ² So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

³ And Saul encamped on the hill of Hachilah, which is beside the road on the east of Jeshimon. But David remained in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness, ⁴ David sent out spies and learned that Saul had indeed come. ⁵ Then David rose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, with Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Saul was lying within the encampment, while the army was encamped around him.

⁶ Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Joab's brother Abishai the son of Zeruiah, "Who will go down with me into the camp to Saul?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you."

⁷ So David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay around him. ⁸ Then Abishai said to David, "God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one

stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice.”⁹ But David said to Abishai, “Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the Lord’s anointed and be guiltless?”¹⁰ And David said, “As the Lord lives, the Lord will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish.”¹¹ The Lord forbid that I should put out my hand against the Lord’s anointed. But take now the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go.”¹² So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul’s head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them.

I. The Lord calls for trust in him when we’re tempted to sin. (1-12)

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:19, 21

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READ 1 Samuel 26:13-25

¹³ Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them.

¹⁴ And David called to the army, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, “Will you not answer, Abner?” Then Abner answered, “Who are you who calls to the king?”

¹⁵ And David said to Abner, “Are you not a man? Who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord.”¹⁶ This thing that you have done is not good. As the Lord lives, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the Lord’s anointed. And now see where the king’s spear is and the jar of water that was at his head.”

¹⁷ Saul recognized David’s voice and said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” And David said, “It is my voice, my lord, O king.”¹⁸ And he said, “Why does my lord pursue after his servant? For what have I done? What evil is on my hands?”¹⁹ Now therefore let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it is the Lord who has stirred you up against me, may he accept an offering, but if it is men, may they

be cursed before the Lord, for they have driven me out this day that I should have no share in the heritage of the Lord, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.' ²⁰ Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth away from the presence of the Lord, for the king of Israel has come out to seek a single flea like one who hunts a partridge in the mountains."

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."

²² And David answered and said, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. ²³ The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed. ²⁴ Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the Lord, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation."

²⁵ Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Psalms 16:3: "As for the saints in the land they are the excellent ones in whom is all my delight."

1 Samuel 13:22 So on the day of the battle there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people with Saul and Jonathan, but Saul and Jonathan his son had them.

"Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand," 1 Sam 22:6

II. The Lord rewards faithfulness in the wilderness. (13-25)

2 Samuel 1:6: on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his **spear**, and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him.

"It is as if David is the new Adam, back in sight of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Tim Chester

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