

# 1 Samuel 23: The Making of a Godly Leader

- David flees the Philistines taking **refuge in the cave of Adullam**
- **Bums and Bad guys** join him: **Distress, Dept and Discontented**
- **Prophet Gad** joins David as ...Saul has a pity party
- **Doeg tattles** about David and the priests
- **85 Priests** and an entire town are slaughtered by Doeg
- **Yielding to the flesh** (ungodly wants) hurts God, others and ourselves
- David admits the guilt of not dealing with Doeg (Flesh)
- David as a "type" of Christ gives hope to **Abiathar** the only priest that escaped) **and hope to us**

**1 Samuel 22:23** "Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life, for you are safe with me."

- **Stay with me:** Jesus wants us to abide in Him. Prayer, Word, and ...time...loving Him and being loved
- **Do not be afraid:** Trust Him. Do not worry about tomorrow.
- **You are safe with me:**

**Proverbs 18:10** The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe.

- In chapter 23 David becomes a picture of that "strong tower" as he trusts in the true Strong Tower
- David is growing into a Godly leader **as he increasingly begins to seek the LORD** for wisdom and guidance

## 1 Samuel 23

1Then they told David, saying, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against **Keilah** and are **plundering the threshing floors.**" 2So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "**Shall I go** and attack these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and **deliver Keilah.**" 3But David's men said to him, "Behold, **we are**

**afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go** to Keilah against the ranks of the Philistines?"

- **Plundering:** raiding the food supply
- David does not wait to be told...he asks **Shall I go?:**
- David keeps his eyes on the mission: **Deliverance**
- **Deliverance:** From Bondage to Freedom
- **Picture of Delivering people from the grip of their own Sin,** the Devil and the World into the arms of Jesus

**2 Corinthians 5: 17** (Read) Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20**Therefore,** we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- We are a "new creation" **therefore** we are ambassadors (talents)
- We are Gods mouthpiece
- **"Behold, we are afraid..."** We are not to be afraid or ashamed to share Christ and see deliverance

**Romans 1:16** For I am **not ashamed** of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**2 Timothy 1:8** Therefore **do not be ashamed** of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

- David had a great excuse (Saul) but was a "man after God's own heart" wanting to do His will
- Before taking others, David made sure of the Lord's will

4Then David **inquired of the LORD once more.** And the LORD answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the

Philistines into your hand." 5So David and **his men went** to Keilah and fought with the Philistines; and he led away their livestock and struck them with a **great slaughter**. Thus David delivered the inhabitants of Keilah. 6Now it came about, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he came down with an **ephod in his hand**.

- Ordinary men made extraordinary following a great leader
- **Leadership:** Make sure you know the mission and others will see your faith and follow

**1 Thesolonians 1:5** (Read)...for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you **know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake**. 6You also became **imitators of us and of the Lord**, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

- Godly leaders are God followers (imitators of us **and the Lord**)
- "Follow me as I follow Christ"
- You know what kind of men...(Chuck Smith)
- Not perfect but no excuses...a man after God's heart
- No... **"Hey, I'm only human!"**

**1 Corinthians 3:3** For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

7When it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah, Saul said, "**God has delivered him into my hand**, for he shut himself in by entering a city with **double gates and bars**." 8So Saul summoned **all the people** for war, to go down to Keilah to **besiege David** and his men.

9Now David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; **so he said** to Abiathar the priest, "**Bring the ephod** here." 10Then David said, "O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has heard for certain that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah to destroy the city on my account. 11"Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down." 12Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "**They will surrender you.**"

- Self deception: God has delivered? God said David would be King! (Cults using "god" in conversation)

- Would Keilah betray David...Yes! They will yield to Saul! **"They will surrender you."**
- David is now consulting with the Lord more and more
- After many claimed to believe in His name, Jesus knew some would betray Him

**John 2: 24** But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, <sup>25</sup>and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for **He Himself knew what was in man.**

- Godly leaders do not rely on men's hearts (motives) ...but God's
- David was wise to consult God...Keilah would betray him

13Then David and his men, about **six hundred**, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, **he gave up** the pursuit. 14David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph And Saul sought him every day, but **God did not deliver him into his hand.**

- **600**: 200 more bums and badguys
- Saul said "God has delivered him into my hands" but gave up the pursuit
- We cannot expect Gods blessing while rebelling against Him
- God did not deliver David to Saul

**Psalm 32 of David** 7You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance.

15Now David became aware that Saul had come out to seek his life while David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. 16And **Jonathan**, Saul's son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and **encouraged him in God.** 17Thus he said to him, "**Do not be afraid**, because the hand of Saul my father will not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also." 18So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD; and David stayed at Horesh while **Jonathan went to his house.**

- David sees Jonathan for the last time
- Encouragement **in God**...God will keep His promise
- We are to encourage ...in God (not with Hallmark quotes)

19Then Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "**Is David not hiding** with us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah,

which is on the south of Jeshimon? 20"Now then, **O king**, come down **according to all the desire of your soul** to do so; and our part shall be to surrender him into the king's hand." 21Saul said, "**May you be blessed of the LORD, for you have had compassion on me.**

22"Go now, make more sure, and investigate and see his place where his haunt is, and who has seen him there; **for I am told that he is very cunning.** 23"So look, and learn about all the hiding places where he hides himself and return to me with certainty, and I will go with you; and if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah."

- Love fest of False motives **servng themselves (Flattery) and...**
- **Gossip:** I am told he is very cunning

**Psalm 12** (Of David) 1 Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be, For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. 2They speak falsehood to one another; With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak

- Flattery is uglier when mixed with religiosity: "May you be blessed of the Lord?"
- **Ungodly leaders:** Means justifies the end (If I can win by "kissing up"...so be it)
- **Godly leader** will speak truth even when it hurts:

**Psalm 15 of David** (Read) 1O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? 2He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. 3He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend; 4In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who ) honors those who fear the LORD; **He swears to his own hurt and does not change;** 5He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent He who does these things will **never be shaken.**

- A Godly leader tells the Truth even to his hurt, but will not be shaken
- Even when others say to lie...he does not change

24Then they arose and went to Ziph before Saul. Now David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon. 25When Saul and his men went to seek him, they told David, and he **came down to the rock** and stayed in the wilderness

of Maon. And when Saul heard it, he pursued David in the wilderness of Maon. 26Saul went on **one side of the mountain**, and David and his men on the **other side of the mountain**; and David was **hurrying** to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were surrounding David and his men to seize them. **27But a messenger came** to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid on the land." 28So Saul returned from pursuing David and went to meet the Philistines; therefore they called that place the **Rock of Escape**. 29David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds of Engedi.

- Saul and David on either side of the mountain. Saul's group splits and goes both ways
- But a messenger came...

**I Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

- **God provided** David a way of escape as David trusted God
- **No** such thing as coincidence

**Psalms 63:19** Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God who is our salvation. Selah. 20God is to us a **God of deliverances; And to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death.**

## **CONCLUSION: Godly Leaders**

1. **Don't wait** to be told: Ask God where He is working and wants to work
2. **Make sure** of the Lord's will then...**No excuses**...or the time will never be right
3. **Know the mission:** Deliverance...Bringing people to **Jesus**
4. **Except** Godly encouragement
5. **Keep the rules**...Win fair and be honest, keeping your **eyes on Jesus**...not the world

**2 Timothy 2: 4** No soldier in active service **entangles** himself in the affairs of **everyday life**, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 5Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes **according to the rules.**

## 6. Go to the Rock

**1 Samuel 23:25** When Saul and his men went to seek him, they told David, and he **came down to the rock**

- Jesus is the Rock
- Humble yourself before your leader...your Lord

**Psalm 61** of David (Read) 1Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer. 2From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint; **Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.** 3For You have been a refuge for me, A tower of strength against the enemy.