

Reflecting on 1 Samuel 23:19-26:25
February 23, 2020

Introduction: This longer passage contains four stories that occur while David is on the run from Saul. The first, second, and fourth stories occur when Saul is chasing David, and God delivers David. The third recounts David's interactions with foolish Nabal and his wise wife, Abigail. From these stories, we gather three lessons about God and living for Him:

Lesson One: David learns that God is our refuge, whom we trust for protection even from ourselves.

Lesson Two: David learns that right is still right, even when you are being treated wrong.

Lesson Three: Saul demonstrates that moments of spiritual clarity do not guarantee a change of spiritual direction.

The Big Idea of the message is *we learn about God as we journey through life with Him.*

Questions:

1. Were you familiar with all of the stories contained in this week's text? Were any of the stories new to you, or are there particular details that were new?

2. All four stories speak of God's protection in David's life. Do you have a story of God's protection that you would be willing to share with the group? If so, please share!

3. In the story of David, Nabal, and Abigail, God again protects David, but on this occasion, David needs protection from himself. Why do Christians sometimes need protection from themselves? Why is this at times hard to admit?

4. In the two stories where David could have easily done harm to Saul, we learn from David's example. Here, David embodies the teaching of 1 Thessalonians 5:15. When we are wronged by someone else, why do we feel justified in doing wrong to them? What needs to be adjusted about our thinking?

5. Ephesians 4:32—the life verse of parents with multiple children—gives us a clear reason for the kindness and forgiveness we show to others. Identify that reason from the list below:

We ought to show kindness and forgiveness to others...

- _____ because the other person deserves it
- _____ because the other person asked for it
- _____ because I am a more of a (wo)man than they are, so I will extend it to them
- _____ because God has forgiven me

Discuss the correct answer and the reason the other options are incorrect.

6. Saul was a man who had times when he obeyed God, and, toward the end of his life, a pattern of walking out of fellowship with God. In the stories where his life was spared, Saul has moments of spiritual clarity about what God was doing. What would it have looked like for Saul to turn back to the Lord?
7. Has there ever been a time in your spiritual journey where God gave you a clear understanding of what he wanted you to do, but where you lost focus and didn't follow through? Please share with the group. What caused you to lose the perspective God had given you?