

## ***“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy***

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### **Study # 10 – Learning Not To Lift Your Hand 1 Samuel 23-24**

#### **I. THE SELF-RULE OF SAUL 1 Sam. 23:1-24:2**

##### **A. THE CITY OF KEILAH 23:1-13**

###### **1. David’s Benevolence v1-6**

- David delivered this fortified city in the land of Judah from the attacking Philistines.

###### **2. Keilah’s Betrayal v7-13**

- The people of Keilah thanklessly planned to deliver David over to a pursuing Saul.

Note how David is now seeking God’s guidance!

- Through Gad, the Prophet (?) v2-4; cf. 2 Sam. 24:11
- Through Abiathar, the Priest v6-11; cf. 1 Sam. 23:9; 30:7

##### **B. THE WILDERNESS OF ZIPH 23:14-23**

###### **1. Saul’s Derangement v14,15**

- Saul sought David “every day,” convincing himself that God was somehow assisting him in his pursuit!
  - cf. v7 (v21); v14; Jn. 16:2

###### **2. Jonathan’s Encouragement v16-18**

- Jonathan, Saul’s son and David’s covenant friend, meets David in the woods and “*strengthened his hand in God!*”
- This will be David’s last meeting with his friend. Although Jonathan was right about his father (cf. 1 Sam. 24:20), he was wrong about himself. (cf. 1 Sam. 31:1-13)

###### **3. Ziphite’s Abandonment v19-23**

- In an attempt to earn favor with the King, the Ziphites also betray David to Saul. cf. Psalms 54 and 63

##### **C. The MOUNTAINS OF MAON 23:24-28**

###### **1. The Satisfaction of Saul v24-26**

- Saul’s army finally zeros in on David and his men. They literally pass each other on opposite sides of a mountain.

###### **2. The Distraction of the Philistines v27-28**

- Just as it seems David and his men will be captured, a messenger arrives telling Saul that the Philistines are attacking the land. Saul withdraws to engage the advancing Philistines.

##### **D. THE HILLS OF ENGEDI 23:29 - 24:2**

- David and his men seek refuge in an oasis-like region near the Dead Sea, finding shelter in caves of En Gedi.

## **II. THE SELF-RESTRAINT OF DAVID 1 Sam. 24:1-22**

### **A. THE VULNERABILITY OF SAUL 24:1-3**

- Saul sought to refresh himself in the coolness of a cave, unaware that David and his men were hiding in its recesses.

### **B. THE DESIRABILITY OF DAVID 24:4-22**

- Although David had the opportunity to kill Saul, he instead cut a piece of his robe and allowed the king to live. v4
- Afterwards, David's repents; for even the rending of Saul's garment was going too far against the Lord's anointed. v5-7

#### **1. David Recognized the Appointment of Saul v8-10**

- Since the Lord had placed Saul in office, it was not David's job to remove him! cf. Rom. 13:1-2; 1 Sam. 26:9
- David honored the God-established office and the one on whom the anointing had been. cf. Ex. 22:28; Acts 23:1-5

#### **2. David Rejected the Counsel of Men v10**

- David's men encourage him to take matters into his own hands, quoting a Divine promise authorizing him to do so!
  - cf. 1 Sam. 24:4; 15:28; 16:1; 20:15; 23:17
- David also had to stay the hands of his men who sought to honor their leader in every way. 2 Sam. 23:15-16; Ps. 123

#### **3. David Resisted the Urge to Strike v11,12**

- David was a man of war! It was second-nature for David to draw the sword! cf. 1 Sam. 18:6,7; 23:5; 25:13
- David resisted to temptation to remove the one who stood in his way of receiving the Kingdom!
- David's self-restraint is even more amazing when you consider that he'd just been betrayed at Keilah and Ziph.

#### **4. David Refused to Vindicate Himself v13-15**

- Instead of taking matters into his own hands, David placed Saul in God's hands. cf. Rom. 12:17-21; Prov. 20:22
  - The word "hand" is found 20 times in 1 Sam. 23 and 24.
- "Vengeance in human hands is a treacherous commodity which destroys the good it is meant to defend." J. Dunn
  - cf. Jam. 1:20

**v16-21** Although King Saul seems repentant concerning his behavior toward David, and recognizes the fact that David is destined for the throne, he soon forgets his admission and continues his pursuit of his soon to be successor. cf. 1 Sam 26

**v22** Unconvinced by Saul's confession, David and his men return to their positions in the stronghold. cf. 1 Sam. 22:4,5; 24:22