

I. Intro

A. Text: **1 Sam. 34:1-22**

¹I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. ²My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. ³Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. ⁴I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. ⁵They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed. ⁶This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them. ⁸Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! ⁹Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. ¹⁰The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing. ¹¹Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. ¹²Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. ¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. ¹⁶The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. ¹⁷The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all. ²⁰He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. ²¹Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. ²²The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned. (1 Sam. 34:1-22)

B. Context

1. David is the anointed, But continued to serve the appointed. **(1 Sam. 16:14-23)**

- a. Whenever Saul had a distressing spirit from the Lord...

2. David went back and forth between tending sheep (slaying lions and bears), ministering to the Lord on His Instrument, and slaying Giants (**1 Sam. 17**).
 - a. The nation fell in love with David.
 - i. Jonathon loved David as he loved his own soul. (**1 Sam. 18:3-4**)

*³ Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴ And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt. (**1 Sam. 18:3-4**)*

- b. The women of the nation wrote songs celebrating David. (**1 Sam. 18:6-7**)

*⁶ Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. ⁷ So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." (**1 Sam. 18:6-7**)*

3. As David Began to be Celebrated, He became Well-Acquainted With Struggle and Mistreatment

- a. Offered Merab, But Given Michal (**1 Sam. 18:17-19**)

*¹⁷ Then Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles." For Saul thought, "Let my hand not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him." ¹⁸ So David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is what is my life or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" ¹⁹ But it happened at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife. ²⁰ Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. ²¹ So Saul said, "I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." (**1 Sam. 18:17-19**)*

- b. Learned to Dodge Spears While Ministering. (**1 Sam. 19:9-10**)

⁹ Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand. ¹⁰ Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night. (1 Sam. 19:9-10)

II. Life On the Run

A. God Taught David Greater Dimensions of Trust (1 Sam. 21:10-15)

¹⁰ Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. ¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying:

'Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands'?"

¹² Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. ¹³ So he changed his behavior before them, pretended madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard. ¹⁴ Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me? ¹⁵ Have I need of madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?" (1 Sam. 21:10-15)

1. David was forced to act crazy in the midst of crazy people.
 - a. God granted favor in the middle of unprecedented circumstances.
 - b. God softened Achish's heart
2. David developed a testimony that could only be realized in the wilderness.

B. God Called David to Greater Responsibility in Leading (1 Sam. 22:1-2)

¹ David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. ² And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him. (1 Sam. 22:1-2)

1. Delivered David from his arch enemy, to a cave.
 - a. Likely comforting to have some company in the wilderness as he ran for his life.
2. David, a man well-acquainted with being an outcast, attracted a group full of outcasts and misfits.
 - a. Everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt. **(v. 2)**

C. God Called David To A Greater Level of Submission

1. Saul kept pursuing David like a hunted animal.
2. David Had Ample Opportunity to go on the Offensive and Usurp His [Wicked] Leader

¹ Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?” ² Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph. ³ And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon, by the road. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. ⁴ David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul had indeed come. ⁵ So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Now Saul lay within the camp, with the people encamped all around him. ⁶ Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother of Joab, saying, “Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?” And Abishai said, “I will go down with you.” ⁷ So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him. ⁸ Then Abishai said to David, “God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!” ⁹ But David said to Abishai, “Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’s anointed, and be guiltless?” ¹⁰ David said furthermore, “As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish. ¹¹ The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD’s anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go.” ¹² So David took the spear and the jug

of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.
(1 Sam. 26:1-12)

- a. David trusted God to exact vengeance upon Saul.
- b. David honored authority (even when the leader he was honoring didn't deserve it).
- c. Even if it kills me, I'm going to honor God by honoring the one He allows to be in authority.

III. Conclusion

- A. Tragically, Saul (and most of his sons) died in battle at the hands of the Philistines.
 - 1. It was a judgment against Saul's house.
 - 2. Saul's death immediately made David King.
- B. Instead of gloating over God exacting the vengeance that David refused to pursue, David mourned for Saul.
 - 1. Punished those who wronged Saul and attempted to take advantage of his misfortune.
 - 2. Fasted and wept for Saul.
 - 3. Wrote songs about Saul. **(2 Sam. 1:17-27)**
- C. Some scholars believe that David waited 25 years between the day that He was anointed and the day that he was appointed as king.
 - 1. David's time in the wilderness proved invaluable to where God was taking him.
 - 2. Because of his journey through the wilderness, David wrote songs that other folks couldn't sing.
 - a. "*I will bless the Lord at all times*" **(Ps. 34:1)**
 - b. ⁸*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!* ⁹**(Ps. 34:19)**
 - c. "*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all*" **(Ps. 34:19)**