

1 Samuel 22:6-23:13

10-17-10

“Saul’s Slaughter & David’s Sorrow!”

I. **INTRO:**

A. Introduce dignitaries, the mayor of *Malishev, Kosovo* & his wife:

1. **Isni**(ISS-knee) **and** **Servete**(sayr-VEE-tay) **Kilaj**(KEY-lie)
2. Gave property for Harvey’s to build their home.
3. Very helpful, & a friend to Randy & Lycia, & their work there.

B. **Prayer:** Lord we **Fret Not**(for U **love** us); **Faint Not**(for U **hold** us); **Fear Not**(for U **keep** us).

C. **Illustration:** There is a **fable** of an **eagle** which could **outfly** another, and the other didn’t like it. The latter saw a sportsman one day, and said to him: “I wish you would bring down that eagle.” The sportsman replied that he would if he only had some **feathers** to put into the arrow. So the eagle pulled 1 out of his wing. The arrow was shot, but didn’t quite reach the rival eagle; it was flying too high. **The envious eagle** pulled out more feathers, and kept pulling them out until he lost so many that he couldn’t fly, and then the sportsman turned around and killed him.

The moral lesson: If you are **jealous**, the only man you can hurt is **yourself!**

- a) Today we start with Saul in **Angst!** (German word)
- b) And, we find out why the writer mentioned **Doeg** in **21:7**, for now he steps forth as a **key actor** in the drama.

II. **SAUL’S SLAUGHTER & DAVID’S SORROW!**

A. **SAUL’S INSECURE LEADERSHIP!** (22:6-8)

B. When you *can’t* challenge your men to a **holy** cause, you resort to: Worry(6); Bribery(7); Sympathy(8); Spying(9); *even* Murder(11-19) just to let people know **you’re in charge!**

1. **Worry** (6) - **w/his spear in his hand!**...necessary Saul? w/all your body guards.
 - a) **Worry** is like a **rocking chair**, it gives you something to do, **but** doesn’t get you anywhere.
 - (1) Worry pulls tomorrow’s cloud **over** today’s sunshine.
 - (2) Worry is wasting today’s time, **to** clutter up tomorrow’s opportunities, **with** yesterday’s troubles.
 - (3) Worry often gives a small thing **a** big shadow. - Swedish proverb
 - (4) **God** is a **help in trouble**. **In worry...you’re on your own!**

2. **Bribery (7) - You Benjamites!**...speaking to his high ranking officials.
 - a) Saul reminded the men *he was king* & therefore the only one who could reward them for their faithful service.
 - b) **David** attracted men who were willing to *risk their lives* for him, **but Saul** had to use *bribery & fear* to keep his forces together.
 3. **Sympathy (8) - Not one of you feels sorry for me!** :(
 - a) So there Saul sits under the tree singing, *"It's my party, and I'll cry if I want to..."*.
 4. **Spies (9) - Doeg**
 - a) Saul now had a **Police State** in which each citizen was to **spy** on the others & report to the king anybody who opposed his rule!
 - (1) Akin to *George Owell's* book, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* where he describes, most believe the happenings in Burma in 1949. **"Big Brother is Watching"**!
- C. **DOEG, A LIAR & MURDERER AT HEART!** (22:9,10)
- D. (9) **Read all Ps.52**(& into) dedicated to *Doeg*.
1. **Scheming leaders produce scheming followers.** We produce after our kind.
 2. Gen.1:24 **Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"** (here we have the *"creepy things"* after their kind!)
- E. **He inquired of the Lord.** *Not true!* (10) - The worst kind of **lie**...*the one that makes you look good & someone else bad.*
- F. **THE MASSACRE AT NOB!** (22:11-19)
- G. (12) **Son of ahitub** - Saul refuses to address the high priest by name.
1. Maybe because **Ahimelech** means *"brother of the king"*. [**ahitub** = good brother]
 2. As Saul stands before the priest, he should be seeking God's forgiveness, **instead** he's conducting an **illegal trial**, presenting **4 charges**:
 - a) [1] Ahimelech gave David bread [2] gave him a weapon [3] inquired God for him [4] *therefore*, was part of David's conspiracy to kill Saul.
 - b) **Never was Saul's paranoia** more **evident** or more **dangerous**.
- H. (14,15) Ahimelech 1st defended David before giving account of his own actions.
- I. Prov.27:4 **Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?**
1. Saul was unwilling to kill the wicked Amalekites, **but** very willing to murder God's priests.

- J. (19) Doeg *went beyond* Saul's orders & went to Nob where he wiped out the entire population as well as the farm animals.
1. So much for *Deut.24:16* where it prohibits **children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.**
 2. He was carrying out, according to severe war guidelines, "*herem*" or ban warfare. Israelites were only to use this form of war against the **worst offenders** of the Lord's holy laws. (Ex.22:20; Numb.21:2,3; Deut.7:1,2)¹
 - a) Being that this was done against Israel's priests is particularly offensive.
 - b) **But, ironically the Lord used the treachery.** (2:31)
- K. **DAVID'S BLAME & RESPONSIBILITY AT NOB!** (22:20-23)
1. He took the blame but also the responsibility of caring for Abiathar making sure he was safe.
 2. David was now officially an **outlaw**, but **the Lord was with him** and he would one day become **Israel's greatest King.**
- L. **GUIDANCE!** (23:1-5)
- M. *Booker T Washington* in his book *Up From Slavery*, wrote, "I have learned that **success** is to be measured **not so much by the position** that one has reached in life as by the **obstacle** which he has overcome while trying to succeed."²
1. Measured by this standard *which is a good 1* David was a very successful man.
 2. **Obstacles:** dodging the king's spears; an attempted kidnapping; escaping 3 companies of soldier's & Saul himself. For 10 years he'd be a fugitive w/a price on his head, & over 600 people to care for.
 - a) **Persecuted Church Update:** On Sunday, September 26, **Hindu militants** stormed a small, mostly tribal fellowship in Umachagi village, Karnataka, which has been led by Pastor Shivanda Siddi (45) for the past 5 years. After interrupting prayers, they tried to argue with Pastor Siddi while abusing believers and taking their Bibles. For the next half hour they insulted, beat and stripped the pastor before phoning the police and falsely accusing him of **forced conversions**. When the police arrived they arrested the pastor, 7 women and 2 children. While the *Global Council of Indian Christians* (GCIC) was able to intervene to get the women and children released, Pastor Siddi was tried and charged under Section 295 of the Indian Penal Code, which prohibits "*forced*" conversions. At last report, the pastor had been released on bail. [and these Christians go right back to what God has called them to!]

¹ Shepherd's Notes; 1&2 Samuel pg.39

² Booker T. Washington (1856–1915), *Educator*, as quoted in *Bits & Pieces*, Vol. T/No. 17, p.5

- N. **Philistines** were looting the grain from the border town *Judahiate* city of **Keilah**.
- O. A **gifted leader** like David might have been tempted to depend on **his experience**, *instead*, he turned to the Lord for the **guidance** he needed.³
1. Even the counsel of his men didn't sway him once he knew the mind of the Lord.
- P. God in His providence gave David **2 great gifts**: **The ephod & a priest** (6).
1. David could always seek God's will as he planned & strategized.
 2. Today we have **2 great gifts** by God's providence: **The Word of God & an Interceding High Priest**.
 3. Do you seek the mind of the Lord as you make decisions?
- Q. **TREACHERY!** (23:6-13)
- R. David rescued the citizens of Keilah **yet** they planned to turn him & his men over to Saul!
1. He saved a total collapse of their economy *but...*
 2. Do not expect everybody you help to appreciate what you have done!
- S. **TACTICAL BLUNDER!** (7)
- T. A **tactical blunder** by relying on the protection of a city w/double walls & double gates.
- U. In Saul's twisted mind, he thought he had **God's blessing** on this? (rt after priest slaughter?)
- V. **GOD OF FEWS WORDS!** (11,12)
- W. But when it's God speaking, you don't need 1 more word than is necessary.
- X. **OUTCAST ONCE AGAIN!** (13)
- Y. They went wherever they could go.
- Z. Here **Ps.31** was penned. [Turn there]
1. This Psalm 31 has ministered to many bible characters.
 - a) **Jeremiah** – Borrows the phrase, "**fear is on every side**"(vs.13) no less than 6 times.
 - b) **Jonah** – In his prayer in the big fish(2:8), he quoted the phrase "**Those who regard worthless idols...**" (from vs.6).
 - c) **Another Psalmist** – Psalm 71 intro starts the same.
 - d) **Jesus** – Last of 7 statements on cross, **Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.**

³ Warren Wiersbe: With The Word; pg.175

2. **Illustration:** A dense fog covering 7 city blocks, to a depth of 100', is composed of something less than **1 glass of water**.
 - a) This can be compared to the things we **worry** about... If we could *see into the future* & if we could *see our problems in their true light*, they would be downgraded to their true size & place.

3. David makes the journey *twice over* from *anguish* to *assurance*: [vs1-8; then 9-24]
 - a) So David isn't always on **top**, wasn't always **smiling**!
 - (1) He is capable of going **up** to the heights of joy & the next moment **down** into the depths of despair.
 - b) There is *significant change of mood*, contrast vs.7 & 12. [but **faith** triumphs vs.14-16]
 - (1) **His times** = in this moment of **adversity** & **trial**, all the **question marks of his life**, were in the hand of God!⁴
 - c) When David & his men were invited to share w/them *in the life of the city* as a reward, it was little ray of sunshine. (21) [the strong city of Keilah]
 - d) Then he makes a confession of saying some *pretty dumb things* (22)

4. Wrap up with last 2 triumph verses! **Wow!**
 - a) We all need to *Hope in the Lord* (not self)
 - (1) **Dennis the Menace** & his friend **Joey** were coming home from **Mrs. Wilson's** house, hands full of cookies, faces smudged with chocolate, Joey says, "I wonder what **we** did to deserved this?" Denis responds with a perfect definition of grace, "Listen Joey, Mrs. Wilson doesn't give us cookies because **we're** nice, but because **she's** nice!"

⁴ Alan Redpath: The Making of the Man of God; pg.88