

Notes on 1 Samuel 26-28

1 Samuel 26:5-6

The importance of family

1. Zeruiah, Joab, Abishai,

1 Chronicles 2:16: Zeruiah is David's sister, so Joab, Abishai and another brother, Asahel, are David's nephews. Probably close in age.

2. Abner and Saul

1 Samuel 26:5 Abner the son of Ner, the commander of [Saul's] army

1 Samuel 14:50 Abner is Saul's uncle. Also probably close in age.

1 Samuel 26:8

David could have justified the assassination of Saul

1. God has caused everyone to be in a deep sleep. (v 12) He obviously wanted me to get to Saul unhindered.
2. He has put the king completely in my hands.
3. Saul is trying to kill me and the men I lead. I have a right and a responsibility to protect my followers.
4. Samuel has anointed me as king and even Saul acknowledges that I will be the next ruler. It's the will of the Lord to remove Saul and this is the only way to do it.
5. I wouldn't be doing it myself; I'm not sinning. Any sin is on Abishai.

David didn't allow himself to play with this sin.

Instead, he focused on reasons to do right.

1. David won't put someone else in a position to be condemned by God in order to save himself.

But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD's anointed and be guiltless?" (1 Samuel 26:9 ESV)

2. God will solve this problem in His time and His way.

And David said, "As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish. (1 Samuel 26:10 ESV)

3. David's mind is already made up. Not negotiable. He will not assassinate the king.

The LORD forbid that I should put out my hand against the LORD's anointed... (1 Samuel 26:11)

One way to fight temptation is to focus on reasons to do right, not excuses for doing wrong.

(1 Samuel 26:23 ESV) (23) The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness...

The Lord sees when we do right.

David writes in Psalm 18:

(Psalm 18:20-21, 25 ESV) The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. ... With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the

blameless man you show yourself blameless;

The New Testament states this principle as well:

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (Matthew 5:7 ESV)

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"-- (1 Corinthians 2:9 ESV)

For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name... (Hebrews 6:10 ESV)

1 Samuel 27:8-12

The people that David and his men destroyed were Canaanites. When the Israelites first came into the Promised Land under Joshua, they were told to utterly destroy the people there because of their great sin.

Geshurites: the remains of the Amorites, whose land was given to the half tribe of Manasseh, Joshua 13:2, 7

Gezrites: the inhabitants of Gezer, which place fell to the tribe of Ephraim; Joshua 16:3

Amalekites: enemies from the time of the Exodus from Egypt; Deuteronomy 25:17-19

1 Samuel 28:5-7

Saul claims to be seeking a word from the Lord, but now he turns to forbidden occult means to find it out.

By what logic do I turn to something that God has forbidden to find out the will of God?!
NO spiritual discernment in this man.

How did he get to this point?

1. Fear. Every time we fear, we have an opportunity to increase our faith. We can take things into our own hands or we can trust the Lord. 1 Samuel 13:11-14

2. Pride. We take steps toward failure when our pride makes us think that our way is better than what the Lord has commanded. 1 Samuel 15

(1 Samuel 15:23 ESV) For rebellion is as the sin of (witchcraft) divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.

(James 1:14-15 ESV) (14) But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. (15) Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Saul knows about God, he knows a prophet of God, he has seen God work in his own life, but he does not know God. He has no solid spiritual core.

What does it mean to have a strong spiritual core? Such a person is described in *Psalm 1*:

(1) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

(2) but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

(3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

(4) The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ...

(6) for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

1 Samuel 28

Observations on this incident:

1. There is life after death and we are recognizable. The dead are not sleeping or in some state of suspended animation; they are sentient.

2. It does not mean that attempting to consult the dead is acceptable to God.

Just because something is reported in Scripture doesn't mean we are to imitate it.

Sometimes, it's just history.

God forbids it.

We can't base a doctrine on a single verse or a unique event.

God can choose anyone or anything to speak for Him. God caused Balaam's donkey to speak! (Numbers 22)

3. Even if you tell the truth to someone who has rejected God, they won't believe you.

(2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV) (4) In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

(Romans 1:21-22 ESV) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools