

## David on the Run – 1 Samuel 23:1-29

### Introduction:

When we follow the Lord and do the right things we all live happily ever after, correct? That is the “gospel” some people try to peddle; but scriptures would have none of that. From Job through to the Apostle Paul we get the consistent message that believers will suffer as much, even more than those who do not know God. The Apostle James would go so far as to say, “Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience” (James 1:2,3). David is also “refined in the crucible of suffering” as he flees from the maniacal King Saul for his very life. As David flees, he learns how to trust God more and more. Today’s lesson takes us to David’s school of faith as he is on the run from Saul.

### David Rescues Keilah – 1 Samuel 23:1-6

1. It is harvest time in Judea and the Philistines have decided to raid the threshing floors of the Israelites. Who hears about this (v1)? What is his first response to the need (v. 2)?
2. How does the Lord respond to the question of David (v. 2)? What is the task given David?
3. Notice what happened when David inquired of the Lord. What happened when King Saul inquired of the Lord (14:37)? Why the difference?
4. Verse 3 starts with the word “but.” It seemed all was set, but something happened. What was the response of David’s men to his plan to go rescue Keilah (v. 3)? Why this response?
5. How does David respond to the hesitancy of his men (v. 4)? What promise does God give to David?
6. In verse 5 David takes his men (about 600 men) and attacks the Philistines who were invading Keilah. Was he successful?

7. In verse 6 we have a mention of Abiathar, who fled to David after his village of Nob was destroyed and all killed in it. How might the mention of this priest at this point tie into what we read in verses 1-5? Why?

### **David in Keilah – 1 Samuel 23:7-13**

8. Saul gets word that David is in a walled town called Keilah. What is Saul's response to finding David in a fortified city? Why? (v. 7)

9. In verse 8 we get a glimpse at how committed King Saul is to get rid of David. What size of army does he gather to take care of one man?

10. David gets wind of the fact the King Saul is coming to kill him. What is the first thing David does (v. 9)? Why?

11. In verses 10-11 David prays a prayer to God with some very specific questions. What does he ask of God? What is God's response?

12. In verse 12 David asks God again a question. What is it? What is God's response? What does David do at this point (v. 13)? How does Saul respond?

### **A Welcome Friend – 1 Samuel 23:14-18**

13. In verse 14 we read what life is like for David. Describe it.

14. David is hiding in Horesh (forests), in the Desert of Ziph. No doubt this is a trying time for David. Who comes to him there to encourage him (v.16)? What message does he bring (v. 17)?

15. In verse 18 we read of David and Jonathan making a covenant again. How is the effectiveness of the covenant demonstrated in this verse?

## David in the Desert Lands – 1 Samuel 23:19-29

16. Who goes to King Saul with news of where David is hiding (v. 19)? The description of where David is hiding is very detailed. What do the Ziphites say they will do for the king (v. 20)?
17. How does King Saul respond to the offer of the Ziphites (V. 21)? What does the king want these informants to do for him (vss. 22-23)? And what will the king do if they provide good information?
18. Where is David now (v. 24)?
19. As we read this account we see that King Saul is closing in on David and his small band of men. In fact, King Saul and his men are just about to catch David when what happens (v. 27)? Would you say this is Providential?
20. King Saul chooses to confront which of his enemies (v. 28)?
21. This was such an important event in the life of David that the area gets a new name. What is the name and what does it mean (v. 28)?
22. David ends up in what area (v. 29)? This hilly country is riddled with caves and to this day is a place where people will hide out.

### Conclusion:

As noted at the beginning of the study, David is in his school of faith. What lessons has he learned through all this? He learned to protect those in need. This is why he rescued the people at Keilah. There he also learned not to put your trust in people, but only trust in God. The people he had just rescued would be willing to betray David to King David. How did David know this? He had learned to trust the word of God through the priest. Finally, David learned that despite his skills at hiding and moving with stealth through the countryside, he could be caught if God allowed it. He came so close to being captured at Maon that we can almost imagine King Saul seeing his prey when word comes that the Philistines were attacking back home. David now knows that God will look after him.

These are important lessons David would have to hold on to when he became king. May we also learn these lessons:

- help those in need, even if they do not fully appreciate your efforts.
- do not trust in people to protect you, instead
- trust in the Lord. He will guide and protect you.
- God is still in control, and even armies move at his bidding. When it seems there is no escape, no way out, remember, God can always provide a way. As 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, God even provides a way of escape when we are tempted.