

Bible Study # 22
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Mr. John Ogwyn

Old Testament Series—I Samuel 16—31 and I Chronicles 10

We are covering the remainder of I Samuel. The chapters this evening **introduce one of the most central characters in the entire Bible, and that is David.** More space is devoted to David than to any other man, with the exception of Jesus Christ. The latter half of I Samuel **deals with his being chosen as king and to the death of Saul.** David's life can be divided into four component parts: David the shepherd boy, David the hero, David the outcast and David the king. We will, this evening, **focus in on David the shepherd boy, David the hero and David the outcast.**

We are introduced to David the shepherd boy as he is caring for his father's sheep and as a skillful musician playing for the king. Later as a teenager about eighteen years of age, David is the slayer of Goliath the great warrior, then the son-in-law of Saul. He went very quickly from David the hero to David the outcast, going to Ahimelech and later collecting a following. After his encounter with Saul, David dwelt among the Philistines, the point at which Saul is killed. The final thirty years of David we will cover next Bible study.

Now why did God spend so much time on the life of one individual? Undoubtedly, there are characteristics that God wants us to focus upon, that He wants us to understand and appreciate. He greatly valued David. God said David was a man after His own heart. I think that would be quite a compliment. And to say that of me or you, that is quite a compliment, a wonderful thing to have said. Why was David such an outstanding man after God's own heart? I think his most outstanding characteristic is his absolute faith in God to properly govern and to vindicate him.

We learn in I Samuel the lesson that is expressed in Psalm 34:19, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." That was a lesson that David learned. That is a lesson that we may learn through example in this portion of I Samuel. *The lesson of this section is the importance of patient faith, to trust God to solve problems His way.* —Patient faith.

I was reminded of the context of when I first went through this portion of material. It was a time about thirteen years ago in Corpus Christi, 1975-1976. For those of you who were around in

that time, you would recognize how appropriate and important the topic of patient faith was. We were going in a direction that was ungodly. What do you do? You patiently trust God to solve problems His own way, as David did.

How important is the topic of patient faith? When everything around you is ungodly, what do you do? It was interesting what David's approach was when he was on the run from Saul. It is interesting what David did in that context. Saul wanted to "nail David's hide" to the wall, literally. He ducked; he stayed out of Saul's way. He did not provide Saul a target to shoot at. What do you do when those in authority are after you? Seek to avoid a confrontation.

The second thing was what he didn't do. He didn't take it into his own hands to overthrow Saul. He didn't try to resolve the problem by using human reasoning. He committed it into the hands of Him who judges righteously. Sometimes we find ourselves "under the gun" by someone wicked in authority. You don't provide a target and you don't try to overthrow them.

I Samuel 16:1, "Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.'" Samuel mourned for Saul. God said, 'How long are you going to mourn for Saul; I want you to go to Jesse's house.'

Verse 2, "And Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.''" Samuel said, 'If Saul hears of that he will kill me.' It shows how far Saul had gotten from God. He would have killed God's prophet. He wouldn't have had any hesitation. God said to just go and tell him you are there to sacrifice for Me which he was.

Verses 3, "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

Verse 5, "And he said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.'" Then he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice." Jesse and his sons were called to the sacrifice.

Verse 6, "So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him.'" When Samuel saw Eliab, the oldest, he said, 'That is he; he has to be the one. You can look at him, a striking fellow.'

Verse 7, “But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’” God said, ‘Didn’t you learn that lesson the first time around when we anointed Saul? Just because he looks like a king, doesn’t mean he is a king. Don’t be impressed by outward appearance. The Lord sees what man doesn’t see. The Lord looks on the heart.’

Verse 10, “Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’” Seven sons came before Samuel; he said, ‘Not this one’ every time.

Verse 11, “And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all the young men here?’ Then he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.’”

‘Well, there is the youngest, the baby in the family.’ They didn’t even think to call him in. ‘He is tending sheep.’ Samuel told Jesse, ‘You go get him; we will not eat until he gets here.’

Verse 12, “So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, ‘Arise anoint him; for this is the one!’” “Ruddy” means “red hair and freckled face,” not what is thought of as typically Jewish like the royal family. That strain in Judah came through the family of David. He was not the one they would have noticed and that Samuel would have picked out.

Verse 13, “Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.”

Verses 14-15, “But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him. And Saul’s servant said to him, ‘Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you.’” An evil spirit with God’s permission troubled him, not that God afflicted him. There comes a point at which, if we open ourselves up to that influence through various moods and things, we become receptive to Satan’s influence. Saul didn’t handle his problems in a proper way and he became receptive to Satan’s influence. Because of the moods and attitudes that he allowed himself to dwell on, he became less and less receptive to God’s influence and more and more receptive to Satan’s influence. How do you become more

receptive to Satan’s influence? –When you begin to reflect the moods and attitudes of Satan.

The basis is that God looked on the heart. Saul may have looked like a king; David didn’t. During this time Saul was having these problems. He was subject, increasingly, to demon influence taking advantage of these attitudes. So it was decided that they would seek out a skillful musician.

Verse 16, “Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.” It was decided that they would seek out a skillful musician.

Verses 17-19, “So Saul said to his servants, ‘Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me.’ Then one of the servants answered and said, ‘Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him.’ Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, ‘Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.’”

Verse 21, “So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armor bearer.” They brought David before Saul.

Verses 22-23, “Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, ‘Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight.’ And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.”

Do you know why the distressing would depart from him? Why did David, playing on a harp, make a difference? This is a very important scripture to understand as to why some music should not be listened to. Music sets a mood. I can create any mood I want to by the music I play. I can make you happy, sad, excited or discouraged. I can soothe you and relax you, stir you up, motivate you—any mood I want with the right music. There is music to create a frenzied feeling; music to make you march to go to war. It not only affects the mind, but it also affects the nervous system. You can see blood pressure changes and heart rate changes. It sets a mood and atmosphere. It affects the emotions.

What happened? Saul would sit and nurse grudges, feel sorry for himself and go into rages. He was getting more and more off balance.

Before he got so bad, someone who was a beautifully skilled musician played, and it changed his mood. It was soothing. It put him in a different frame of mind. It put him in a better mood and created a positive atmosphere, a beneficial effect.

As time went by and Saul didn't deal with the root of his problem, these things that were beneficial finally came to a point where it was no longer enough. You have to ultimately deal with the root of the problem. If you don't deal with the root of the problem, then eventually these things lose their value. The music no longer did the "trick."

Realize that the same things apply today. We allow ourselves, our families and children to be continually tuned into the wrong kind of influences, the wrong kind of spirit influences. Parents don't realize the extent that many rock groups are into demonism and the occult. If you look at some of them and they look like a bunch of demons, they obviously are not going to tune you into the right thing.

Philippians 4:8, "Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

It is important for us to realize that the mood and the atmosphere that is created by music are very important. It is not only the words. The words are important, but it is also the music and the beat itself. Music has an emotional impact. There is a range and different music for different occasions, festive and somber occasions. There is nothing wrong with that variety. The result should be positive, uplifting and focusing in on what is right and good and harmonious, as opposed to that which is depressing.

Perhaps a matter of months or a year or two goes by.

I Samuel 17:1-4, "Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered together at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span." The Philistines gathered their armies together

and came out to challenge the Israelites. They had a champion; his height was six cubits and a span. He was a minimum of nine feet six inches. He may have been eleven or twelve feet. He weighed hundreds of pounds, maybe five hundred pounds.

Verses 5-7, "He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. And he had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. Now the shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him." He had armor alone that weighed in the neighborhood of two hundred pounds and a spear that weighed about twenty pounds.

This went on for a period of about forty days (v. 16).

Verses 12-14, "Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul. The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle...David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul. But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem." David was too young to go into the military.

Verse 17, "Then Jesse said to his son David, 'Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves and run to your brothers at the camp.'" Jesse sent David to bring provisions for his sons.

Verse 23, "Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them." David got there just in time to hear Goliath. David's response was totally different than anyone else.

Verse 26, "Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, 'What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?'" David said, 'Who is this uncircumcised Philistine to challenge the armies of the Living God? Who does this guy think he is?'

Verses 28-29, "Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, 'Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your

heart, for you have come down to see the battle.’ And David said, ‘What have I done now? Is there not a cause?’” They told him, ‘Hush; he might hear you and eat you for a breakfast snack.’

Verses 30-32, “Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did. And when the words, which David spoke, were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him. Then David said to Saul, ‘Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.’” David was not intimidated.

Verses 33-35, “And Saul said to David, ‘You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are not but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.’ But David said to Saul, ‘Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and stuck and killed it.’” David was not afraid of anything. He said he killed a lion and a bear to get back his lambs. ‘I have never run from anything in my life. When I was a teenager I went after a bear and got my lamb back.’

Verse 36, “‘Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he had defied the armies of the living God.’” He said, ‘This uncircumcised Philistine is going to be like one of them.’

Verse 37, “Moreover David said, ‘The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘Go, and the Lord be with you!’” David had confidence; His confidence was in God. He walked with God even as a young boy, as a teenager. He had a confidence and a boldness that God appreciated.

Do you realize how much it went against the grain for David to have to wait all those years for God to do it? He was impetuous to go out and do something. God wanted to “season” him before he became king. God said, ‘you trusted Me when I acted instantly, can you trust Me if I wait twelve years? When you were facing a lion or a bear and you prayed to Me, I backed you up. You trusted Me when I acted immediately, but can you trust Me if you don’t know when I am going to act?’ For some people taking action is very difficult. David was the opposite; he tended to act quickly. When he was faced with a

problem, he was ready to go charging off and doing something. How does God go about making us into God? He knocks off everything that doesn’t look like God. God doesn’t always work with us in the same way.

Verse 42, “And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, ruddy and good-looking.” So David, a little red-haired freckled-face boy, went out there to meet the Philistine.

Verse 43, “So the Philistine said to David, ‘Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?’ And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.” He cursed David by his gods.

Verses 45-46, “Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!’ Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.’” They are going to know the determination of the battle is not who has the most swords. David stepped out with faith and confidence.

Verses 48-49, “And it was so, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.” The rock had knocked him out.

Verse 51, “Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.” He cut off his head. It scared the Philistines to death.

Verse 52, “Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.” Then they chased the Philistines.

Verses 55-58, “Now when Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army. ‘Abner, whose son is this youth?’ And Abner said, ‘As your soul lives,

O king, I do not know.’ And the king said, ‘Inquire whose son this young man is.’ Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. And Saul said to him, ‘Whose son are you, young man?’ And David answered, ‘I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.’”

Some have wondered why Saul didn’t recognize him. Perhaps a year had passed since Saul had last seen him, but how much attention does someone in Saul’s position pay to someone in David’s position, playing music?

I Samuel 18:1-4, “And it was so, when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father’s house anymore. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 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.” David and Jonathan really took to each other, a very close friendship; they became very close friends.

Verses 5-9, “So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants. 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. So the women sang as they danced, and said: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.’ Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, ‘They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?’ So Saul eyed David from that day forward.”

Who was out to get whom? He suspected David of what he was out to do. So often those who are accusing are guilty of those things. He had an accusing attitude. He figured David had the same attitude he had.

Verse 10, “And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied [announced or proclaimed] inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul’s hand.” Saul brooded about problems. He

let it “eat away” at him and fester. He allowed a root of bitterness that “ate him away.”

Verse 11, “And Saul cast the spear, for he said, ‘I will pin David to the wall with it.’ But David escaped his presence twice.” He tried to kill David. Soothing music was no longer sufficient to solve the problem.

Verses 12-16, “Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul. Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him. Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.” Saul was afraid of David. He could see that God was with him. David did what he was supposed to do, and the more he did, the more Saul became afraid.

Verse 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.’”

Verse 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.” Saul promised him the older daughter and then gave her to someone else.

Verses 20-21, “Now Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 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.’ Therefore Saul said to David a second time, ‘You shall be my son-in-law.’”

Verse 25, “Then Saul said, ‘Thus you shall say to David: “The king does not desire any dowry but one hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king’s enemies.”’ But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.”

He wanted David to kill some Philistines. Saul thought David would get killed. Saul was becoming more and more jealous. He was not a man of his word. He put stipulations on the marriage of David and Michal that would have caused David’s death. He kept changing even though he had promised. Saul feared David because he was loved by the people (I Samuel 18:16).

I Samuel 19:4-5, “Now Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, ‘Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been very good toward you. For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the Lord brought about a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?’” Jonathan tried to speak good things about David to his father.

Verse 6, “So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, ‘As the Lord lives, he shall not be killed.’” He would vacillate back and forth. He would say he was going to do better and then would go back.

Verses 9-10, “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. 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.” Then, again, he tried to kill him. David escaped (v. 12).

Verse 18, “So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.” Samuel had a school of the prophets there; “*Naioth*” means “schoolhouse” in Hebrew.

Verse 20, “Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.”

Verse 24, “And he [Saul] also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, ‘Is Saul also among the prophets?’” Saul began to rant and rave, carry on and lay down naked. The word “naked” means “unclothed,” in the sense of being without his royal armor. He was just really carrying on, and that lead people to deride him more.

I Samuel 20:1, “Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan, ‘What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?’”

Verse 5, “And David said to Jonathan, ‘Indeed tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat. But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third day at

evening.’” This was a family occasion similar to Thanksgiving.

Verse 6, “If your father misses me at all, then say, ‘David earnestly asked permission of me that he might run over to Bethlehem, his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.’” David’s absence from the household was going to be noticed because he was the son-in-law.

Verses 12-14, “Then Jonathan said to David: ‘The Lord God of Israel is witness! When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, or the third day, and indeed there is good toward David, and I do not send to you and tell you, may the Lord do so and much more to Jonathan. But if it pleases my father to do you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And the Lord be with you as He has been with my father. And you shall not only show me the kindness of the Lord while I still live, that I may not die.’” David and Jonathan put this thing together. He knew what Saul’s attitude was going to be.

Verse 15, “But you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the Lord has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” Jonathan was not jealous. That is a real friend when someone else is going to get something that they would have gotten. He said, ‘Remember our friendship when you become king.’

Verses 18-23, “Then Jonathan said to David, ‘Tomorrow is the New Moon, and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty. And when you have stayed three days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid on the day of the deed; and remain by the stone Ezel. Then I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I shot at a target; and there I will send a lad, saying, “Go, find the arrows.” If I expressly say to the lad, “Look the arrows are on this side of you; get them and come”—then, as the Lord lives, there is safety for you and no harm. But if I say thus to the young man, “Look, the arrows are beyond you”—go your way, for the Lord has sent you away. And as for the matter which you and I have spoken of, indeed the Lord be between you and me forever.’” David planned to escape when it became apparent that Saul was not going to relent.

I Samuel 21:1, “Now David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech was afraid when he met David, and said to him, ‘Why are you alone, and no one is with you?’” Then David fled for the fear of Saul to Achish the king of Gath (v. 10).

Verses 12-15, “Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. So he changed his behavior before them, feigned madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate and let his saliva fall down on his beard. Then Achish said to his servants, ‘Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me? 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?’” They chased him off.

I Samuel 22:1-2, “David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father’s house heard it, they went down there to him. 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.”

David escaped to Adullam. The group that David gathered at the cave is the same bunch that gathered at the Alamo and various places. For instance, at the Alamo, there were people that came and didn’t want to miss the fight. David collected a band of malcontents trying to get out of debt, a rough bunch. They had a tremendous amount of respect for David and looked to him. That was kind of the core that became his mighty men.

Verse 9, “Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, ‘I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.’” This Edomite went back and told, and Saul sent soldiers back down there.

Verse 11, “Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father’s house, the priests who were in Nob. And they all came to the king.”

Verse 13, “Then Saul said to him, ‘Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?’”

Verses 16-17, “And the king said, ‘You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father’s house!’ Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, ‘Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me.’ But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the Lord.” Saul sent word and the soldiers came in.

The Israelite soldiers were reluctant to kill the priests.

Verse 18, “And the king said to Doeg, ‘You turn and kill the priests!’ So Doeg, the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod.” Doeg slew eighty-five people.

Verse 19, “Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep—with the edge of the sword.”

Verses 20-21, “Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the Lord’s priests.” It shows, again, how far Saul had gone. Once he had gone that far, then nothing could stop him.

I Samuel 23:16-18, “Then Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. And he said to him, ‘Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that.’ So the two of them made a covenant before the Lord. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.” This shows David’s and Jonathan’s friendship.

I Samuel 24:2-4, “Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats. So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.) Then the men of David said to him, ‘This is the day of which the Lord said to you, “Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.”’ And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.”

The men were saying to David, ‘Look, God has delivered him in your hands.’ David wanted to make a point; so he cut off the skirt of Saul’s robe. He cut the bottom part of it off.

Verses 5-6, “Now it happened afterward that David’s heart trouble him because he had cut Saul’s robe. And he said to his men, ‘The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.’” David’s attitude changed after it happened; he admitted that he was wrong to do something to embarrass Saul. He was the Lord’s anointed.

Verses 7-9, “So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way. David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, ‘My lord the king!’ And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down. And David said to Saul: ‘Why do you listen to the words of men who say, “Indeed David seeks your harm?”’ He told Saul he was sorry. Do you want to know why he is a man after God’s own heart? He was willing to admit error. He said, ‘You think I am trying to get you; I could have killed you.’

Verse 10, ““Look, this day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, “I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord’s anointed.”” I will not lift up my hand against you.

Verse 12, ““Let the Lord judge between you and me, and let the Lord avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you.” He said, ‘God’s going to take care of you, but I am not.’

Verses 16-17, “So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, ‘Is this your voice, my son David?’ And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. Then he said to David: ‘You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil.’” Saul was sorry and was going to do better.

Verse 22, “So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.” Saul went to his home, but David realized that he was not to be trusted. He just went to another cave.

I Samuel 25:1, “Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.”

Verse 4, “When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.”

Verse 7, ““Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds were with us, and we did not hurt them, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel.”” David had disciplined his men and provided law and order and protection in the area.

Verse 9, “So when David’s young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in the name of David and waited.” They said, ‘Nabal you have benefited from us being here,

being protected from the Philistines and marauders.’

Verses 10-11, “Then Nabal answered David’s servants and said, ‘Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master. Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?’” He refused to give food to David and his men.

Verse 13, “Then David said to his men, ‘every man gird on his sword.’ So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies.” David was incensed. He was a man of action, and he had to learn to wait on God.

In this, Nabal’s wife, Abigail was there to try to run interference for him (vv. 14-18).

Verse 23, “Now when Abigail saw David, she hastened to dismount from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground.”

Verse 25, ““Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.”” She brought stuff to David and said, ‘Please don’t come in and do this thing you are thinking of doing.’

Verse 36, “Then Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was, holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal’s heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; therefore she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light.” Nabal had a drinking problem. A point you might consider, you don’t ever try to talk to somebody when they are loaded. Abigail understood that. We can see Abigail’s wisdom.

Verse 37, “So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone from Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became like a stone.” She waited until he sobered up. It scared him so badly that he had a heart attack and fell over dead. David didn’t take matters into his own hands. God dealt with it.

Verse 39, “So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, ‘Blessed be the Lord, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil. For the Lord has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head.’ And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife.”

I Samuel 26:1-2, “Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, ‘Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon?’ 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.” Years had gone by, and everybody knew that Saul and David were really “on the outs.” They recognized David was an enemy of Saul.

I Samuel 28:4-5, “Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly.” We find the situation that as the battle continued with the Philistines, Saul was going out to fight against Achish.

Verses 6-7, “And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, ‘Find me a woman who is a medium at EnDor.’” He was so far off the track; he decided to go to a witch to bring up Samuel. You can see how bad he had gotten by this time.

Verses 9-11, “Then the woman said to him, ‘Look you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?’ And Saul swore to her by the Lord, saying, ‘As the Lord lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.’ Then the woman said, ‘Whom shall I bring up for you?’ And he said, ‘Bring up Samuel for me.’” He became frightened and went to the witch to bring up Samuel.

Verse 13, “And the king said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, What did you see?’ And the woman said to Saul, ‘I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth.’” The picture here is of someone ascending out of the earth.

Verse 14, “So he said to her, ‘What is his form?’ And she said, ‘An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle.’ And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.” She thought it was Samuel, but this is not what happened.

The woman was the one who saw something and she described it to Saul. Saul assumed it to be Samuel. This was simply a demon spirit that the witch saw, a lying spirit, no different than the kind of things in séances.

Verses 17-19, ““And the Lord has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, namely David. Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the Lord had done this thing to you this day. Moreover the

Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.” We see the situation; he was told he was going to die.

What finally happened, I Samuel 31:2-3, “Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul’s sons. Now the battle became intense against Saul; and the archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by the archers.”

Verse 4, “Then Saul said to his armor bearer, ‘Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through and abuse me.’ But his armor bearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.” Saul committed suicide.

Verse 5, “And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword, and died with him.”

The parallel account in I Chronicles 10:13-14, “So Saul died for his unfaithfulness [KJV, “transgression”] which he had committed against the Lord, because he did not keep the word of the Lord, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. But he did not inquire of the Lord; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.”

You see here the very tragic end of King Saul, and the story of the introduction to David and the role he was to play in God’s plan and purpose for him. I think there is a lot to learn here from this example of the story of Saul and David. Realize that God teaches us not just by Commandment, “thou shalt and thou shalt not,” but by example. That is why so much of the Bible is taken up showing examples. What we want to learn is how they handled things properly and what mistakes were made. If we read the examples, we can learn how to handle circumstances and things that happen to us.