

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART I

STUDY NUMBER FOUR

1 Samuel 21:1-22:23

If I were to take two Psalms today to summarize where we are, I would use Psalm 34 first of all.

Psalm 34:1-3,6,15,18,19

"I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord. The humble shall hear it and rejoice. Oh magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. This poor man cried and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears are open to their cry. The Lord is near to the broken hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers him out of them all."

And then I would add Psalm 56.

Psalm 56:3-4

"When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid."

What can man do to me?

When we ended last week and the curtain came down on the study, David was crying, concerned, and confused. Thus far in our studies David has been anointed king by Samuel but he is not on the throne yet, Saul still is. It has been several years ago when that anointing took place.

In the second study we saw God take his man and put him in the public position by allowing him the joy of having victory over Goliath. After that experience scripture says, “His name became well known” in Israel.

Last week in study number three we discussed the friendship between Saul’s oldest son Jonathan and David. And we watched Saul increase in his jealousy to the point that he tried twice in chapter 18 and in chapter 19 to kill David.

So he flees to Ramah to see Samuel and stays there for a period of time and then Saul comes up after him.

And the Spirit of God restrained them from apprehending David on that occasion.

David flees back to Gibeon, talks to Jonathan, and Jonathan searches out his dad and discovers that his dad really is going to try to kill David.

And so Jonathan goes out and he shoots the arrows. He says, “if the arrow lands on this side of the rock it is all right for you to stay^e. But if the arrow goes beyond then it is God’s will for you to leave.

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You can also be in his will and in fellowship because you are accepting the curriculum that God has designed for your spiritual development.

David is moving on a slide downward right now. He has moved from faith in chapter 17, to fear as he fled in chapter 19 last week, to failure today. It is just a gradual slide.

As you get your eyes off of the Lord and on your circumstances you will eventually fail and it will start with fear of what is going to happen to you.

It is when we are in this condition experiencing these things that we are confused about and we do not understand that seem so inconsistent with the Lord's will that we are tempted to do what we can to extricate ourselves from the crucible and get some comfort.

Now this is a foreign thought to some believers, God is going to test you after you become a Christian to mold you into what you are going to become. God does two things in every test.

- 1. He uses the stress as an opportunity to show yourself. You have a lot of blind spots in your life and so do I. The curriculum designed by the Father is to show us the blind spots in our lives, to let the real us come out through the stress.**

2. The positive side of it is to mold you into the image of his own dear Son, to make you more godly, to make you more holy, to make you more Christ-like. And that is the beautiful side of it.

In Genesis 21:1 God did test Abram. In James 1:3, “the testing of your faith is producing endurance.”

God is testing David in this study and he is going to blow it. He is going to make a big mess but it is a hard, difficult principle to realize that God allows these circumstances to come into our lives to test our faith.

Now if you are having a problem with it, let me get biblical for a second because this does not come from me.

1 Peter 4:12, 13

“Beloved think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing happened unto you. But rejoice in as much as you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings that when his glory shall be revealed you may be glad also with exceeding joy.”

1 Peter 1:6, 7

“Wherein you greatly rejoiced though now for a season if need be you are in manifold testing,

knowing that the testing of your faith is like the refining of gold.”

It is refined by the fire and as a result becomes something beautiful when we properly respond.

In chapter 21 David is out of fellowship. In chapter 22 David is in fellowship. So at least we are going to see a transition in the midst of the study.

Now you know as well as I do how you respond when the stress hits you.

- 1 When it hits us the greatest we think God does not know it. We have a feeling that He is so busy over in Middle East conflict He doesn't know that our ship is about to sink.**
- 2. And then on top of that we get the feeling because nothing happens that He doesn't really care.**
- 3. And then finally we think He has lost control and He has let our lives get out of the orbit of his love. And we get very upset.**

Here is a principle for today. Your response to the divine curriculum that God allows in your life, with regard to His will, it will determine whether you are in fellowship or out of fellowship.

Your response to the divine curriculum in the center of His will, will be determined by whether you are in fellowship or out of fellowship.

It takes only a moment to make a convert but it takes a lifetime to make a saint.

Now what does the stress of circumstances do to David? It makes him forget the three “P’s.” He forgets:

- 1. God’s plan for him to be on the throne.**
- 2. God’s promises that nothing can touch him.**
- 3. God’s power who delivered him in the Valley of Elah from Goliath?**

Let’s begin with verse 1.

21:1 "David went to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he met him, and asked, "Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?"

David, when he leaves the rock of Ezel and Jonathan turns back toward Gibeon, is all alone.

He starts walking south. He goes just a couple of miles. Remember this all happened in the morning when we left him. I think this is the middle of the afternoon when he gets to Nob; it is just a couple of miles.

Nob is like Naioth. Remember when David went to Ramah and Samuel said, “let’s go up to Naioth the secluded place for the prophets where we can spend some time together.

The Camp David of the prophets was Naioth. The Camp David of the priests was Nob. And here in this secluded place he comes to a priest. Ahimelech is a pretty sensitive guy.

I think David’s eyes are still swollen. I think his faith is still streaked with tears.

No matter how motivated and enthusiastic his sanguine temperament presents itself, Ahimelech knows there is something wrong.

And so he asks two questions. “Why are you alone? & Why is no one with you?” But he leaves a question unanswered and unasked. “What is wrong with David?”

Now watch David. Under the stress of these circumstances, he is the master of his fate right now. He is calling the shots. He is doing it all so the first thing he does is tell three lies right away. Lie 1, 2, 3.

I think when you start reading the Psalms and you see how many times David speaks of “deliver me from lying lips” you realize that he learns an incredible lesson from what he is going through right here.

And so now that we know that this is in the will of God, he is fearful, he has lost his perspective, he has taken matters into his own hands and he has made a mess out of it.

Can I ask you a question? Have you ever done that? Have you ever lost the divine perspective? Have you ever forgotten the promises? Have you ever forgotten that God could provide for you and take care of you and meet your needs and as a result of taking matters into your own hands have you hurt a lot of people who are the closest to you?

David is going to hurt a lot of folks by what he does right now. He is going to get carnal and crooked and it is not going to be very pretty.

v. 2 David answered Ahimelech the priest, "The king charged me with a certain matter and said to me, 'No one is to know anything about your mission and your instructions.' As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place.

I am on a secret mission for the king. This is classified governmental information. I am on Mission Impossible.

v. 3 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find."

It is obvious that David is hungering at this point, and he has come to Ahimelech to get food for himself.

v. 4 But the priest answered David, "I don't have any ordinary bread on hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here--provided the men have kept themselves from women."

v. 5 David replied, "Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever I set out. The men's things are holy even on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!"

On this secret mission that I am taking for the king. Lie #2.

Now what happens?

v. 6 So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the Lord and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

v. 7 Now one of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before the Lord; he was Doeg the Edomite, Saul's head shepherd.

If you want to put Psalm 52 right out there beside verse 7, you can read that later. That is dedicated to Doeg, the Edomite.

This is incredible how the divine plant in Nob is a guy who should have never been there. Doeg, an Edomite, descendant of Esau, way down south.

He is in Nob of all places. It is just like when you are out of God's will he has certain divine plants that He puts right there by you to embarrass you. Right there to watch you and confront you because he loves you too much. And Doeg is standing there in this situation.

Have you ever stopped to think how many times God changes your schedule because He wants you to touch somebody's life? When you get a hold of this concept, as a Christian, it will make stopping in traffic jams, missing airplanes, missing appointments, a very relaxing thing because God's sovereign will has been accomplished in your life.

God makes every appointment sacred.

Doeg is here as an instrument to teach David an incredible lesson when you take matters into your own hand.

v. 8 David asked Ahimelech, "Don't you have a spear or a sword here? I haven't brought my sword or any

other weapon, because the king's business was urgent."

Lie number 3! Now, what has happened to David? Do you have a sword here? Do you remember back in chapter 17? How about this?

1 Samuel 17:50

"So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him."

David! How about a sling, a stone, and the Lord of hosts when you leave? I love it. He plants Doeg there, completely out of character, in the wrong place, and the only sword they have in the house is the one that he knows all about and it calls back some memories. Just bringing back some memories of bygone days.

v. 9 The priest replied, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one." David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."

You can really feel the providential circumstances surrounding David in this situation. Doeg the Edomite, Saul's head shepherd has been detained there in Nob

on this occasion; and he is witnessing and listening to everything that is transpiring.

Can you believe verse 10?

v. 10 That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath.

He FAKED, he FEARED, and he FLED.

He is now heading 30-35 miles southwest to Achish, the king of Gath.

David is carrying Goliath's sword and going to Goliath's hometown.

Instead of fleeing to GOD, he fled to GATH.

v. 11 But the servants of Achish said to him, "Isn't this David, the king of the land? Isn't he the one they sing about in their dances: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands'?"

See how great that song was? It had hit the top of the charts and it had made it all the way to Gath. They are singing it down there.

v. 12 David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath.

You think he is afraid of Saul. He is flat in trouble with Achish right now.

What do you do when in fear you fled and you are out of fellowship and you are trying to call the shots. You do something dumb and stupid to get out of it. And he doesn't call onto the Lord.

v. 13 So he feigned insanity in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

He is defacing public property and drooling all over the place and making a big mess. Talk about a lousy witness in Gath.

v. 14 Achish said to his servants, "Look at the man! He is insane! Why bring him to me?"

v. 15 Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here to carry on like this in front of me? Must this man come into my house?"

He has three questions and then he says, call the paddy wagon, pack him up and ship him out of here.

You say, wow, that awful. It really is. Have you ever compromised? Gotten completely out of the will of God and done some really dumb stupid things? You said some things you never thought you were capable of

saying. You lost partial or total control. You were irrational. You see we're not too much different from old David.

Chapter 22 v. 1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there.

The cave of Adullam. When David gets back to the cave which is about 12 miles northeast of the city of Gath, God meets him head on right there in the cave.

David is so broken and so upset that he really gets right with God. We need to remember that when David messes up, he knows where to go.

He takes all the pieces and says God I am sorry. He is praying Lord, I left, I lied, and I looked.

I left Ramah, I am sorry. I lied to Ahimelech, I am sorry. I looked to the enemy for my provision and I am sorry, I should have been looking to you.

And right there as he confesses his sin he gets his heart right with God.

For a lot of people it is the cave. For Elijah it was the cave.

Caves are designed by God as a place for confrontation and redirection.

Maybe you are there right now. Maybe you are in that cave. Maybe you are learning a lesson about letting God take over in your life.

Don't fault it; it's a great place to be.

Out of the cave of Adullam comes many of the Psalms that you read. Psalm 57, Psalm 140, 141, 142, and 143. All of them come out of this experience. David is a changed man.

David is out of fellowship in chapter 21 and he is back in it in chapter 22.

God is working all of this together in David's life to prepare him ultimately for the throne.

Now notice the rest of verse 1. It says "When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there." Why? They were afraid they were going to get killed by Saul. Everybody is afraid of Saul.

And when they come, all seven of the brothers, and Jesse and the wife and all the household travel down there to join David.

v. 2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

You talk about a bunch of factory rejects. These guys are distressed. They are in debt. They are discontented. They gather around him; 400 of them. Why?

God says, "David I am going to give you a challenge. You pull these 400 boys together and you make something out of them and I will not have any trouble with you sitting on the throne, doing what I need you to do to lead the people.

Those 400 men became 600 and a lot of their names are recorded in scripture as some of the mightiest men who ever fought in the trenches for the land of Israel during David's kingdom.

v. 3 From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?"

There is the first time David says, I am going to wait until God lets me know what He is going to do before I do it. And that is one of the biggest lessons to learn in your life. That is the root of David's tremendous success in the weeks that are going to follow.

Why did he go to Moab? Because there are court records in Mizpah to say that his great grandmother Ruth lives there and the king is favorably disposed to Moab blood. And so his mom and dad have a place to stay in the refuge of the king of Moab for the present time.

He is going to wait for God's time.

v. 4 So he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was in the stronghold.

v. 5 But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

That is just a few miles south so it is not very far. And the prophet tells him to do that.

v. 6 Now Saul heard that David and his men had been discovered. And Saul, spear in hand, was seated under the tamarisk tree on the hill at Gibeah, with all his officials standing around him.

v. 7 Saul said to them, "Listen, men of Benjamin! Will the son of Jesse give all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make all of you commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds?"

v. 8 Is that why you have all conspired against me? No one tells me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is concerned about me or tells me that my son has incited my servant to lie in wait for me, as he does today."

v. 9 But Doeg the Edomite, who was standing with Saul's officials, said, "I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob.

v. 10 Ahimelech inquired of the Lord for him; he also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

Do you suppose when Ahimelech inquired of the Lord for David that the Lord said, "go to Gath?" I don't think so but David was so scared that he did not do what the Lord said.

Have you ever inquired of the Lord for something and then you turned around and did what you wanted to do?

We are not any different than David are we?

v. 11 Then the king sent for the priest Ahimelech son of Ahitub and his father's whole family, who were the priests at Nob, and they all came to the king.

v. 12 Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." "Yes, my Lord," he answered.

He is totally innocent. He has been brought into this situation and doesn't know a thing about what is going on. He can't understand it.

v. 13 Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, giving him bread and a sword and inquiring of God for him, so that he has rebelled against me and lies in wait for me, as he does today?"

v. 14 Ahimelech answered the king, "Who of all your servants is as loyal as David, the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard and highly respected in your household?"

What would you expect me to do for him? Unwritten in the text.

v. 15 Was that day the first time I inquired of God for him? Of course not! Let not the king accuse your servant or any of his father's family, for your servant knows nothing at all about this whole affair."

Here Ahimelech is caught in the cross fire. He is being blamed unjustly for something that he did not know.

v. 16 But the king said, "You will surely die, Ahimelech, you and your father's whole family."

v. 17 Then the king ordered the guards at his side: "Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because they too have sided with David. They knew he was fleeing, yet they did not tell me." But the king's officials were not willing to raise a hand to strike the priests of the Lord.

Saul is acting like Hitler here.

v. 18 The king then ordered Doeg, "You turn and strike down the priests." So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod.

I do not know about you but it really hurts when missionaries die. We have just had the massacre of the priests at Nob.

Saul doesn't stop there.

v. 19 He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with the men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys and sheep.

Saul just wiped out everybody. He annihilated the place.

v. 20 But Abiathar, a son of Ahimelech son of Ahitub, escaped and fled to join David.

v. 21 He told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord.

A lot of time the Bible does not give you the emotion but it is there.

v. 22 Then David said to Abiathar: 'That day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, I knew he would be sure to tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of your father's whole family.'

v. 23 Stay with me; don't be afraid; the man who is seeking your life is seeking mine also. You will be safe with me.

Just a little act of deception, but look at the cost involved.

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: One lie always leads to another.

When you start the realm of falsehood, it only intensifies.

LESSON #2: The devastating effects of a lie upon others is clearly taught in this passage.

How many have been hurt in this situation.

LESSON #3: We observe the tragic results of God's man in the enemy camp.

Oh what an awful, sorry witness he is.

LESSON #4: David is out of fellowship in chapter 21 and back in fellowship in chapter 22.

LESSON #5: When you get your eyes off the Lord and on your circumstances, you end up faking, fearing, and fleeing.

Lessons Learned In The Life Of David

PART I

STUDY NUMBER FOUR - 1 Samuel 21:1-15 1 Samuel 22:1-23

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QUESTIONS:

- 1. Read 1 Samuel 21:1-22:23 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.**
- 2. Where does David go this time when he flees from the wrath of Saul, according to verse 1?**
- 3. Is David honest with Ahimelech, and what is his request of him?**
- 4. Where does David go after he leaves Ahimelech, according to verse 10?**
- 5. What does David do to free himself of the Philistines, according to verse 13?**
- 6. Where do we find David at the opening of chapter 22?**
- 7. How does David make provision for his parents, according to verses 3 & 4?**
- 8. What does Saul do to the priests of Nob?**
- 9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?**
- 10. What lesson have you learned from this study?**

Lessons Learned In The Life Of David:

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1 Samuel 22:1-23**

LESSON #1: One lie always leads to another.

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