

## 1 Samuel 23:1 – 24:22

<sup>23:1</sup> Then they told David, saying, 'Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are plundering the threshing floors.' <sup>2</sup> So David inquired of the LORD, saying, 'Shall I go and attack these Philistines?' And the LORD said to David, 'Go and attack the Philistines and deliver Keilah.' <sup>3</sup> But David's men said to him, 'Behold, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the ranks of the Philistines?' <sup>4</sup> Then David inquired of the LORD once more. And the LORD answered him and said, 'Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand.' <sup>5</sup> So David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines; and he led away their livestock and struck them with a great slaughter. Thus David delivered the inhabitants of Keilah. <sup>6</sup> Now it came about, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand. <sup>7</sup> When it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah, Saul said, 'God has delivered him into my hand, for he shut himself in by entering a city with double gates and bars.' <sup>8</sup> So Saul summoned all the people for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men. <sup>9</sup> Now David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, 'Bring the ephod here.' <sup>10</sup> Then David said, 'O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has heard for certain that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah to destroy the city on my account. <sup>11</sup> Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant.' And the LORD said, 'He will come down.' <sup>12</sup> Then David said, 'Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?' And the LORD said, 'They will surrender you.' <sup>13</sup> Then David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the pursuit.

<sup>14</sup> David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand. <sup>15</sup> Now David became aware that Saul had come out to seek his life while David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. <sup>16</sup> And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God. <sup>17</sup> Thus he said to him, 'Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father will not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also.' <sup>18</sup> So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD; and David stayed at Horesh while Jonathan went to his house. <sup>19</sup> Then Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, 'Is David not hiding with us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?' <sup>20</sup> Now then, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to do so; and our part shall be to surrender him into the king's hand.' <sup>21</sup> Saul said, 'May you be blessed of the LORD, for you have had compassion on me.' <sup>22</sup> Go now, make more sure, and investigate and see his place where his haunt is, and who has seen him there; for I am told that he is very cunning. <sup>23</sup> So look, and learn about all the hiding places where he hides himself and return to me with certainty, and I will go with you; and if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah.' <sup>24</sup> Then they arose and went to Ziph before Saul. Now David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon. <sup>25</sup> When Saul and his men went to seek him, they told David, and he came down to the rock and stayed in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard it, he pursued David in the wilderness of Maon. <sup>26</sup> Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain; and David was hurrying to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were surrounding David and his men to seize them. <sup>27</sup> But a messenger came to Saul, saying, 'Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid on the land.' <sup>28</sup> So Saul returned from pursuing David and went to meet the Philistines; therefore they called that place the Rock of Escape. <sup>29</sup> David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds of Engedi.

<sup>24:1</sup> Now when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, saying, 'Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.' <sup>2</sup> Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats. <sup>3</sup> He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave. <sup>4</sup> The men of David said to him, 'Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.' <sup>5</sup> It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe. <sup>6</sup> So he said to his men, 'Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed.' <sup>7</sup> David persuaded his men with these words and

did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.<sup>8</sup> Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, ‘My lord the king!’ And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.<sup>9</sup> David said to Saul, ‘Why do you listen to the words of men, saying, ‘Behold, David seeks to harm you’?’<sup>10</sup> Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, ‘I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD’S anointed.’<sup>11</sup> Now, my father, see! Indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, and I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life to take it.<sup>12</sup> May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.<sup>13</sup> As the proverb of the ancients says, ‘Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness’; but my hand shall not be against you.<sup>14</sup> After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog, a single flea?<sup>15</sup> The LORD therefore be judge and decide between you and me; and may He see and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand.’<sup>16</sup> When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, ‘Is this your voice, my son David?’ Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.<sup>17</sup> He said to David, ‘You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.’<sup>18</sup> You have declared today that you have done good to me, that the LORD delivered me into your hand and yet you did not kill me.<sup>19</sup> For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safely? May the LORD therefore reward you with good in return for what you have done to me this day.<sup>20</sup> Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.<sup>21</sup> So now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s household.’<sup>22</sup> David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

#### Questions

1. Remind people of the context of Samuel
  - a. Overarching theme: God is searching for a shepherd or mediator, and shaping David into that
  - b. In the story: Saul is the reigning King of Israel and David has been anointed King of Israel by God through the prophet Samuel. So now Saul is chasing David through the wilderness and trying to kill him, even though David has not threatened him.
2. Keilah: 23:1 – 13
  - a. Do you think David is like Robin Hood right now? Fighting the enemies of his people even though he’s underground?
  - b. Why does David defend Keilah, even given what he finds out from God?
  - c. Application: Can we care for others even when they don’t return the favor? Who is in our life right now that God is leading us to care about?
  - d. Why is David praying with the ephod (a linen garment that the priests wore)?
    - i. He’s remembering the priests’ sacrifice of their own lives for him.
    - ii. He is aware of the mantle of spiritual leadership that has been passed onto him – he is the one who prays for the people, like the priests did.
    - iii. State: We inherit Jesus’ mantle: He is our ultimate high priest who gave his life for us, and we join our prayers with his as he prays for all of us.
    - iv. What does this suggest about David’s life with God? He continues to become the shepherd and mediator that God really wants.
    - v. What helps us to pray and hear from God?
3. Ziph: 23:14 – 29
  - a. Why does Jonathan come to meet David?
  - b. Why doesn’t David commit himself to eliminating Saul’s descendants? That was more typical when ruling dynasties have conflicts...
  - c. Why do the Ziphites betray David?
  - d. How do you think David felt about them?
4. Engedi: 24:1 – 22
  - a. When did God say, ‘Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.’ (v.4) This was not in reference to Saul, but to the Philistines in 23:4. Someone stretches this word to cover something it doesn’t really.

- b. Why didn't David slay Saul while Saul was 'taking a dump' and relieving himself? Would you have done it? It would have made life so much easier...
- c. What does it mean that he cut Saul's robe? The robe was a symbol of authority (notice that Jacob gave his son Joseph a robe to highlight his preference of Joseph over his other sons, and how the bleeding woman touched Jesus' robe because it symbolized his authority). This was a mocking gesture.
- d. Why did David's conscience bother him? Literally, his heart smote him. He had made a mistake by making a disrespectful gesture.
- e. What does David's speech reveal about him? What does it mean to him to trust God?
- f. What does Saul's speech reveal about him?
- g. Application: How can we respect our enemies and detractors and competitors while still standing in the truth?
  - i. Illus: Harry Potter called Tom Riddle to repent in HP7
  - ii. Illus: Zoe, when she was 3 years old, had an argument with her friend Maia. This was at our house. She pulled her older brother John into their room and said, 'John, don't play with Maia. I stopped her and told John not to go into the room. I said to Zoe that she could take a time out if she needed to. Then she could come out and figure out how to play with Maia again. But it wasn't right for her to pull John onto her side.' Now, just this past year at school (Zoe is 8 years old at this point), she mediated between two of her classmates who weren't talking to each other.
- h. What do you think will happen next in David's story? Stay tuned!!
- i. Is this peace between the two houses now?