

The Anointed King: Anticipation For A Forever King Begins

Faithfulness in Persecution

1 Samuel 23-25

Main Idea

Faithfulness in the midst of persecution involves inquiring of the Lord in prayer, listening and obeying His word with a view to entrust to God His justice on the earth.

Overview

- What should I do when I see Gods people being attacked by His enemies? (1 Sam. 23)
 - Keilah was a part of Gods people in Gods place (land)
 - The Philistines were the enemies of God’s people and they were robbing them of their provisions
 - David hears of this and his response is to “inquire of the Lord” (v 2)
 - David and his men are in hiding and going to help these people would expose them when they don’t “have” to
 - David’s men rebuff...David inquires of the Lord again (v 4)
 - The Lord affirms them to go and they do and succeed (v 5)
 - In wondering if the recently liberated Keilahites would give him up David again “inquires of the Lord” (v 10)
 - In response to David hearing from the Lord he again obeys the word of the Lord and leaves
 - Jonathan goes to David in order to “strengthen his hand in God” (v 16)
 - Jonathan shows his confidence in David as the true King (v 17)
 - They covenant with one another (v 18)
 - 1 Samuel 23.15-29 document the further pursuance of Saul and David
- Should we be the administrators of Gods justice to Gods enemies here in the world? (1 Sam. 24)
 - David attacked the Philistines as a soldier of the Old Covenant that had as its basis a ethnic people in a geo-political state
 - New Covenant people are not a particular ethnicity nor do they have a geo-political state but instead are residents of the Kingdom of God
 - David has the opportunity to kill or even harm Saul while Saul was in the cave
 - David doesn’t harm Saul because he is the Lord’s anointed (v 6, 10)
 - More than that...he still understands Saul deserves to be punished, it doesn’t stop for him at the fact that Saul is/was the anointed king
 - David instead entrusts vengeance to God, not to himself (v 12, 15)
 - Saul is shamed because of David did not return evil for Saul’s evil actions (v 17)
- What should I do when enemies scorn me personally after doing good to them? (1 Sam. 25)
 - Samuel dies (v 1)
 - Nabal is rich (v 2) and harsh and badly behaved (v 3) while his wife Abigail is beautiful and discerning (v 3)
 - David knows that Nabal is shearing sheep and readying for a feast and he sends his soldiers down to inform Nabal of how he had taken care of Nabals shepherds (v 7) and he simply wanted some of the food from the festival (v 6-8)
 - Nabal refuses because he doesn’t know the soldiers (v 10-11)
 - David responds in rage to bring about war (v 13, 21)
 - Abigail intercepts David and his men with food and wisdom (v 18-20)

- Abigail pleads with David to not take the throne of Israel with “blood guilt” (v 23-31)
- David quickly sees Abigail as a provision from the Lord to speak Godly wisdom to him (v 34) and he stops the raid and peace is preserved (v 32-35)
 - Again: David entrusts God's judgment to God, not himself
 - God seems to judge Nabal in his heart attack (v 38)
- After her husband's death Abigail is taken up as David's wife while Michal is given to another man (v 42-44)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *What is our basic response when we are treated poorly while simply trying to be faithful? Why?*

1. Read 1 Sam. 23.1-5. Describe the situation of David and his army. Why would David even consider going to help the people in Keilah? How does this motive play into his seeking the Lord?
2. Are we even aware of places in the lives of the people of Restoration Church that are suffering in light of being faithful? How about those outside our local church that are suffering for being faithful? How can you come to know about these things so that you likewise can love them?
3. What does prayer and obedience to the word do to inform our response to situations like these? Encourage others who have done this well to share how it came about.
4. Read 1 Sam. 24.1-15. Why does David not harm Saul when everyone told him to and when it made logical sense to? How does this model Christ?
5. Did David understand that there was no penalty to Saul?
6. Why do we so strongly want to hurt those that hurt us? How is this not in keeping with the Gospel?
7. What did David do that also emulates the Gospel (1 Peter 2.21-24)? What does this look like for our lives?
8. How does Saul respond? What does Peter recommend for us as we act in faithfulness and peacefulness not seeking retribution (1 Peter 3.14-17: Be prepared to give a reason for the hope!)
9. Read 1 Samuel 25:1-835. What kind of guy is Nabal? What kind of gal is Abigail? Note how David and his men had been good to Nabal (v 7)...how are we similar to David in the way we would respond to Nabal's refusal?
10. What is behind our desire to seek our own justice? How can we learn from Abigail? How can we learn from David in receiving counsel from a sister/brother? Note how Abigail models Christ to David.

Accountability question: *Confess places where you are fearful to be faithful because of what may come to you. Where can you use prayer to be faithful in a culture that has ever increasing heat on faithfulness to the Historic Christian faith?*