

The Anointed King: Anticipation For A Forever King Begins

To Obey or Not to Obey

1 Samuel 26-28

Main Idea

David's faithfulness to God's word engages God's plan for the world. Saul's faithlessness produces death.

Overview

- David entrusts Saul's wrongs to the Lord and does not administer his own justice (1 Samuel 26)
 - David and Abishai sneak into Saul's camp and take the spear and jar of water at Saul's head
 - Abishai interprets the situation as another opportunity sent from God to kill Saul
 - David does not interpret it that way believing Saul is the Lord's anointed
- David entrusts God's judgment upon Saul to God
 - They take the spear and jar of water to show they could have killed Saul
 - Saul is convicted of his sin and confesses his sin
 - Says that he will not harm him and
 - David is bothered that he has been "driven out" of the "heritage of the Lord" to "serve other gods"
 - David references Gods place...the Land that God gave to His people where they are to serve Him and worship Him
- Because of Saul's pursuit David cannot do these things without fear of being killed
 - Saul's confession of sin appears thin as he has already had a similar experience and gone after David again
 - We also see Saul's willingness to engage the medium though he knew he shouldn't have as a continuation of his heart...he is a pragmatist
- David flees to Gath in order to set up a base of operations to capture lands promised to Gods people and flee the wrath of Saul (1 Samuel 27)
 - David takes all of his family and army in order to get Saul away from him for a time (vs 4)
 - Achish, a Philistine king gives David Ziklag thinking David is not a threat since Israel has given him over
 - Vss. 8-12 discuss how David uses this time to capture God promised lands that Joshua didn't conquer
 - Ziklag itself was promised to Judah (Joshua 15.31) and David takes it over (v 6)
 - David is being faithful to get Gods people in Gods place and put them under His rule
- The Philistines draw up against Israel for battle; Saul is fearful and consults mediums in light of God rejecting him while David is not telling the full truth about his intentions (1 Samuel 28)
 - David isn't telling the full truth, but instead is choosing the lesser of two evils in order to:
 - Not have he, his family, and his army murdered...all things God is clearly using to accomplish His purposes

- So that he can capture the God ordained land and not have Gods plans frustrated
- Saul has been rejected by the Lord because of his desire to pursue his own dreams instead of the ones laid out so clearly by God
 - The Lord doesn't speak to him in his fear either by dreams, urim, or prophets
 - Urim is a device used by priests: He killed 85 priests before (1 Sam. 22.6-23)
- Saul disobeyed Samuel, the prophets words before
 - Saul knew mediums/necromancers were an abomination to the Lord as revealed in his driving them out in keeping with the Lord's command (v 3; Deut. 18.9-12)
 - This act seems to seal the deal on Saul's death...he is now an abomination to the Lord (1 Chronicles 10.13)
 - Samuel speaks to Saul and reminds him that he has been rejected
 - Samuel tells him that he and his sons will be "with him" which means they will be dead as Samuel is dead (not with God, per se)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Describe some ways that we see people giving into their passions and it goes on to produce death.*

1. Read 1 Samuel 26. How does Abishai interpret their situation in 1 Samuel 26? How does David understand how they are to act? What is the difference in their interpretive guide?
2. How can we stay away from "over spiritualizing" every opportunity presented to us and not give into every opportunity to make life a little easier?
3. Read Luke 6.27-36: How should we act given opportunities to hurt our "enemies" in light of Christ's command and example in the Gospel? Why is this so hard for us?
4. Read 1 Samuel 27. Given the context of Samuel (after Judges which is after Joshua), why is it that David is going on all these raids? How can we see that in the city of Ziklag itself?
5. How does it comfort you to see the Bible's unity of purpose in seeing Gods people in Gods place under His rule? How does that inform your life today?
6. Read 1 Samuel 28. In what way do we see David's obedience in not killing Saul, but entrusting him to the Lord's justice play out in chapter 28?
7. Saul seems afraid and trembling because he is not with the Lord. How does repentance restore our relationship with God? What is the difference between repentance and confession (use examples of Saul)?
8. Read Deut. 18.9-12 and 1 Samuel 28.3: Why is Saul's behavior such an abomination to the Lord?
9. How can we learn from Saul's following his passions and not following the Lord and his word? What does it get Saul in the end?

Accountability question: *Share with one another places that you find it difficult to obey the Lord and seek words from other places instead for direction. Encourage those that have been doing this in an obedient manner, motivated by Gods grace.*