
LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD."

David's courage and the gifts of mercy and grace!

1 Samuel 24:8 Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, My lord the king! "When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. ⁹ He said to Saul, Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'?"

1 Samuel 24:10 "This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD's anointed.'

1 Samuel 24:11 See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life.

1 Samuel 24:12 May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.

1 Samuel 24:16 ...Saul asked, 'Is that your voice, David my son?' And he wept aloud. ¹⁷ You are more righteous than I," he said. "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. ¹⁸ You have just now told me of the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. ¹⁹ When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today.

David's Faith Wavers

The Life of David—part 4

February 17, 2019

David begins to trust himself and his instincts

1 Samuel 21:3 "Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find." 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.'

1 Samuel 21:8 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.' 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.'

1 Samuel 22:9 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. ¹⁰ Ahimelech inquired of the LORD for him; he also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine.'

1 Samuel 22:13 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?'

1 Samuel 22:16 But the king said, 'You will surely die, Ahimelech, you and your father's whole family.' 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."

1 Samuel 22:18 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.¹⁹ He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with its men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys and sheep.

David's wavering descends

1 Samuel 21:10 That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath.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'?"

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

¹³ So he pretended to be insane 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.

David's faltering faith in God and increased faith in himself.

1 Samuel 22:3 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?"⁴ So he left them with the king of Moab...

Doing what is right; getting kicked in the teeth

1 Samuel 23:1 When David was told, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are looting the threshing floors,"² he inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" The LORD answered him, "Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah."³ But David's men said to him, "Here in Judah we are afraid. How much more, then, if we go to Keilah against the Philistine forces!"

1 Samuel 23:4 Once again David inquired of the LORD, and the LORD answered him, "Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand."⁵ So David and his men went to Keilah, fought the Philistines and carried off their livestock. He inflicted heavy losses on the Philistines and saved the people of Keilah.

1 Samuel 23:10 David said, "O LORD, God of Israel, your servant has heard definitely that Saul plans to come to Keilah and destroy the town on account of me.¹¹ Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me to him? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, God of Israel, tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will."¹² Again David asked, "Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my men to Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will."

David's big test!

1 Samuel 24:4a The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'"

1 Samuel 24:b ...Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.⁶ He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the
