

I. Introduction: Why would David go through similar situations so close together?

II. David again resists the temptation to revenge. 26:1-25

A. The chase resumes. v. 1-4

1. The Ziphites again betray David to Saul. v. 1 23:19
2. Saul, after all his kind words, is again eager to kill David. v. 2 24:16-20
3. Again David is outnumbered, but he has good intelligence (spies). v. 3-4

B. David again has the opportunity to kill Saul. v. 5-8

1. This time David becomes the pursuer. v. 5
2. David boldly goes down into Saul's camp. v. 6-7 II Sam. 23:18-19 19:21f
3. Why did David's audacious plan work? v. 12 Gen. 2:21 15:12 Isa. 29:10
4. The LORD again delivers Saul into David's hand. v. 8a 24:4
5. Abishai is more than willing to kill Saul. v. 8b
6. Why might it have been even more tempting for David to kill Saul this time?

C. Again David refuses to allow Saul to be harmed. v. 9-12

1. He respects the fact that Saul is the LORD's anointed. v. 9,11a 24:6 II Sa. 1:14
2. He expresses faith that the LORD will bring vengeance upon Saul, one way or another. v. 10 25:29b,26b,39 31:1ff Heb. 9:27
3. David will not seize the throne with violence, but waits on the LORD.
4. David takes Saul's spear and jug. v. 11b-12
5. Again Saul is rendered helpless by the LORD. v. 12 19:22-24

D. David accuses Abner of gross dereliction of duty. v. 13-16

1. David calls out from a (safe) distance. v. 13
2. "Abner, you deserve to die for sleeping on the job." v. 14-16
3. "I did your job and protected the king tonight."

E. David remonstrates with Saul. v. 17-20

1. "You are pursuing me for no reason." v. 17-18
2. "If I am guilty then I will appease the LORD with an offering." v. 19a
3. "If evil men have falsely accused me, thus driving me away from the holy land, may the LORD curse them." v. 19b-20a 24:10 21:10ff 27:1ff Ps. 84:1-2 27:4
4. "I am no threat to you." v. 20b 24:14
5. Could David only worship the LORD in the holy land?
6. Do you, like David, appreciate the privilege of your access to God and your fellowship with His people? Ps. 84:1-2 John 4:21ff Heb. 13:17 4:14ff

F. Saul again claims to have a change of heart. v. 21,25

1. Saul confesses that he has been sinful and foolish. v. 21ac 13:13 15:24 25:25
2. Saul promises to do David no harm and invites him to return. v. 21b
3. Saul again declares that David will prevail. v. 25 25:20

G. David trusts in the LORD (not Saul). v. 22-24

1. He returns Saul's spear. v. 22
2. He trusts the LORD to reward him for his righteousness and faithfulness, and to punish Saul for his wickedness. v. 23-24 Ps. 72:14 119:138 143:1 89:14
3. David does not choose to return with Saul. Why? v. 25b 27:1ff
4. They never see each other again.

III. Application.

- A. How does God lead us? v. 8a
1. Opportunities (open doors) are not necessarily indicative of the LORD's leading.
 2. Nor can we lean on our feelings. v. 8b Pr. 14:12 3:5-6 Jer. 17:9
 3. We know God's leading through His Word. II Tim. 3:16-17
 4. We may not always know what God is doing, but we have sure guidance as to our duty. v. 10 Deut. 29:29
- B. The fear of the LORD keeps you from sin. v. 9,11 Gen. 39:9 Pr. 1:7 Dt. 10:12
1. David feared God more than men. Pr. 29:25
 2. Like David, we respect those whom God has put in authority, even when they are foolish. v. 9,11,21 I Pe. 2:17ff Eph. 5:22ff 6:1ff Heb. 13:17 Ro. 13:1ff
 3. Just as David refuses to take shortcuts, we resist the temptation when sin seems to offer an attractive way to solve a problem.
 4. Like David, we show love to our enemies. v. 21 Ro. 12:21 Mt. 5:38-48
 5. Our lives reflect the LORD's righteousness and faithfulness. 26:23 I Jo. 2:29 3:7
- C. God alone can be fully trusted. Jer. 17:7-8 Ps. 37:5ff
1. Some people, like Saul, can't be trusted. v. 25b Ps. 146:3 Jer. 17:5-6
 2. Like David, we can trust God to judge the wicked and vindicate the righteous. II Sam. 4:9 Ps. 7:8ff 18:20 37:13 54:7 73:1ff Ro. 12:17-21 Heb. 10:30 I Pe. 3:9
- D. Are you double-minded, like Saul? Ps. 119:113 Js. 1:8 4:8 Ro. 1:32 II Co. 7:10-11
1. Unbelievers can respect the testimony of genuine believers. v. 21,25
 2. Unbelievers can feel pangs of conscience and experience sorrow over their sin without truly repenting. Ro. 1:32 II Co. 7:10-11
 3. You need, not merely to turn over a new leaf, but to be born again.

IV. How does this passage point to Christ?

- A. Jesus resisted the temptation to grasp the crown prematurely (before the cross). v. 9-10 Ps. 2:8-9 Mt. 4:8-9 Mark 8:31ff
- B. Jesus refused to take revenge on His enemies. I Pe. 2:21ff Luke 9:51-55
- C. Jesus is perfectly righteous and faithful. v. 23 Isa. 11:5 Acts 3:14 II Pe. 1:1 I Jo. 2:1
1. David's righteousness and faithfulness ultimately fails. III Sam. 11-12
 2. Jesus' righteousness and faithfulness never fails. Heb. 3:2ff
- D. Jesus has gained the reward for His righteousness -- salvation for all who are in Him. v. 23 Ps. 85:10-13 I Pe. 3:18 Ro. 3:26 1:17 Heb. 2:17
- E. One day all, even Jesus' enemies, will acknowledge His Lordship. v. 21,25 Phil. 2:9-11

Discussion questions

1. Why would the Bible record two incidents which are so similar (I Sam. 24 and 26)?
2. Why might David have been even more tempted this time to kill Saul?
3. Why doesn't David allow Abishai to harm Saul? What keeps you from sinning?
4. What was the hardest for David about being wandering fugitive?
5. What does this passage teach about how God does and does not lead us?
6. How righteous and faithful was David? v. 23
7. How do we explain Saul's pattern of going back and forth between trying to kill David and being remorseful?
8. When does the point come when we can end a relationship because the other person has broken trust? v. 25b
9. In which trying situations are you currently being forced to trust in the LORD?
10. How does our text point to Jesus?