



WORTH THE WAIT

Studies in I Samuel

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Smell the Coffee I Samuel 26-28



Anything of true value is worth waiting for.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

Sometimes people need to “wake up and smell the coffee” - they need to be snapped back into reality and what really works. In this week’s study Saul needed this jolt a couple of times and David could have used a mid-course correction as well. The story opens with Saul again seeking David’s life again because the Ziphites had betrayed his location as before. David heard that Saul was in his vicinity, and after spying out his camp, he asked Ahimelech and Abishai to go with him to it that night. When they did they came upon Saul, unguarded. Although urged on by Abishai to kill Saul, David followed God’s plan and refused, saying that no one could do this and be without guilt. He trusted the Lord to strike him, then simply took his jug and spear and left.

Calling out from a mountain across from them David accused Abner of failing to do his job of guarding the king. Thus, all of them should die. When Saul recognized his voice David asked what evil he had done; if the Lord had led him to punish David he was willing to make an offering. If this wasn’t the case, though, it was wrong to kill him in a foreign land. Moreover, the pursuit of David was as wasteful as hunting a flea or a partridge. Saul then admitted his sin and affirmed that David would accomplish much and prevail. In the next section David became fearful again and fled God’s protection, taking all his family to King Achish in Gath. While Saul did stop chasing him David had to deceive Achish regarding his loyalty. But while there he destroyed the

enemy completely, added the town, Ziklag, to Israel, and promised to fight for Achish. At this point Saul reentered the story. He had to fight the Philistines, but could get no clear revelation from God regarding victory. So, he enlisted a medium, violating the Mosaic Law, and encountered Samuel. He asks him if he would gain victory but Samuel told him he was fighting God’s purpose of tearing the kingdom from him and giving it to David; he would certainly be defeated. This sent Saul into deep fear and killed his appetite, although later the medium was able to prepare food for him and send him on his way. Maybe he finally “smelled the coffee”.

Study Questions for I Samuel 26-28

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read 1 Sam 26:1-7. Who betrayed David again (v1) and to what did this lead (v2)? How did David respond first (v3-4) and then what did he do (v5)? What was his next step and who went with him (v6-7)?</p>	
<p>2. Using 26:8-12 what did Abishai ask (v8) and how did David answer (v9)? Why (v9-10)? What did they do instead and why was this possible (v11-12)? What does this show?</p>	
<p>3. From 26:13-16 where did David position himself (v13) and what did he say (v14)? Of what did he accuse Abner (v15-16) and what was the proof (v16)?</p>	

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I Samuel 26-28 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. In 1 Sam 26:17-20 who heard David (v17) and what did David ask him (v18)? What did he propose (v19-20) and why (v20)? Explain his metaphors in v20.

5. Based on 26:21-25 what did Saul admit and vow (v21)? What did David declare (v22-24) and desire (v24)? What did Saul declare (v25)?

6. From 27:1-7 what did David decide and how do you explain this (v1)? Was this wise (see 21:10-15)? What resulted (v2-4)? What did David request (v5-7)? Was this good (v6)?

7. Looking at 27:8-28:2 what did David do while living there (v8-9) and how did he cover his tracks (v10-11)? What resulted (27:12-28:2)?

8. Using 28:3-7 what did Saul face next (v4), how did it affect him (v5), and what did he try (v6)? When this didn't work what did he do (v3, 7)? Why was this wrong—see Lev 19:31, 20:27?

9. Read 28:8-14. What did Saul do and ask (v8, 11) and how did the medium respond (v9)? What did he vow (v10) and why was this ironic? How did the woman then react and why (v12-14)?

10. According to 28:15-19 what did Samuel say (v15) and how did Saul answer (v15)? What did Samuel affirm (v16)? Should Saul have been surprised? Apply.

11. In 28:20-25 what was Saul's reaction (v20) and what did the medium do (v21-22)? When he refused what happened then (v23-25)?

12. From 1 Sam 26-28 what happened when David followed God's plan (26:6-25) and when he fled God's protection (27:8-28:2)? What resulted when Saul fought God's purpose in his life (28:3-20)? What does this teach us?

Scripture to Remember

“Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the Lord, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

I Samuel 24:6

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—*The Shadow and the Substance (Identity Theft-Ex 12)*
(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with your group your favorite element of the Christmas story—the trip, the visits of Mary or Elizabeth, Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, the manger scene, etc. Why?
2. Read Ex 12:1-13. Describe the various specifics of the lamb to be sacrificed (v5). Why did the lamb need to be unblemished? Why did Jesus need to be unblemished?
3. What point was God making by requiring the Israelites to completely consume the lamb? How does this relate first to Jesus, and then to our commitment to Him?
4. Discuss why God chose blood as the element of protection for Israel—what does blood represent? Why does the shedding of Jesus' blood lead to true forgiveness of sins?
5. In what sense was the blood of the doorposts a “sign” of security for Israel? How can we remember that Christ's blood applied to the doorpost of our heart makes us secure?
6. Talk about how Christ's death on the cross was a sign of judgment on the god of this world and all that opposes God. What does that mean for your life?
7. What are some evidences of our faith in the blood of Christ in our everyday life? How well do you display this evidence in yours—and discuss how can we get better at this?