



WORTH THE WAIT

Studies in I Samuel

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Pushing the Panic Button I Samuel 21-23



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

In World War II certain bombers had a bell-warning system, called the panic button, which allowed the crew to bail out if the plane was severely hit. Sometimes it was used when only minor damage would have occurred, thus coming to mean overreaction to any situation. In this week’s study future king David pushed the panic button as he fled in fear from Saul. In doing this he showed the problem with fear—it leads us to make foolish decisions that often involve lying to cover ourselves. David first ran to the priest at Nob, Ahimelech, putting him in danger from Saul. Knowing this he asked David about his purpose and David lied, saying he was on a mission from the king. He then asked for sacred bread,

possibly lying again that his men had kept themselves pure. He then asked him for a weapon, which would mean treason to Saul, and was given the sword of Goliath. Sadly, Doeg, one of Saul’s servants, observed all this and later reported it to Saul. Next, David fled to Gath which was, foolish because it was Goliath’s hometown. When his identity was exposed he had to feign insanity, barely escaping death. There were more painful results of fear as well. After David hid in the cave of Adullam with a cohort of the discontented rabble, he then positioned his parents away from danger. However, Saul heard that David’s whereabouts were known and he wondered why he had not been told. Doeg informed him about his encounter with Ahimelech, so they went down

to Nob and there Saul commanded the destruction of all the priests for their “treason”. Finally, though, the proper approach to fear is seen—prayer. Three times in 1 Sam 23 David sought the Lord—twice regarding whether he should go to battle against the Philistines and then whether he would be surrendered to Saul. God answered and protected him daily, even though Saul got as close as being on one side of the mountain while David was on the other. In addition Jonathan came out and encouraged David, reminding him that he would be king one day. If David had prayed all along he wouldn’t have needed to push the panic button.

Study Questions for I Samuel 21-23

(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 21:1-9. Where did David run and what was the concern (v1)? What requests did David make (v3, 8) and what were the answers (v4-6, 9)? How would you characterize David’s replies (v2, 5, 9) and why would they lead to trouble (v7)?</p>	
<p>2. Using 21:10-15 where did David’s fear take him next (v10) and why was this foolish (v11)? What did this cause (v12) and how did David handle this (v13)? Did it work (v14-15)? Was it right?</p>	
<p>3. From 22:1-5 who joined David on his next stop and what did they have in common (v1-2)? What else did David arrange (v3-4) and what did Gad tell him (v5)?</p>	

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I Samuel 21-23 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. In 1 Sam 22:6-13 what did Saul find out (v6) and what did he say (v6-8)? What was the answer (v9-10) and to what did this lead (v11-13)?</p>	
<p>5. According to 22:14-23 what was Ahimilech's defense (v14-15) but what did Saul say (v16)? What did he command (v17, 18) and what were the responses (v17, 18)? What resulted (v19, 20-21) and how did David assess this (v22-23)?</p>	
<p>6. From 23:1-5 what was David told (v1) and how did he respond (v2)? How did his men react to this (v3) and again how did David respond (v4-5)? Contrast this with his responses in 1 Sam 21.</p>	
<p>7. Looking at 23:6-14 what did Saul do next and why (v7-8)? How did David respond (v6, 9-11, 12)? What did he then do and how did it turn out (v13-14)? Apply.</p>	
<p>8. Using 23:15-18 how did God bless David next (v15-16)? How did Jonathan encourage him (v17, 18)?</p>	
<p>9. Based on 23:19-23 who betrayed David next (v19-20) and why do you think they did? How did Saul respond (v21-23)? How does this strike you?</p>	
<p>10. In 23:24-29 what occurred when David was being hunted by Saul (v24-25) and what did Saul do (v25)? How close did David get to death (v26) and what prevented his capture (v27-29)? What does this teach us?</p>	
<p>11. Looking back over 1 Sam 21-23 what problems did David's fear lead to (21:1-12) and what were the painful results (21:13-22:23)? What was the proper approach to fear (v23:1-14) and what resulted from this (v23:15-129)?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

“And Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God.”

I Samuel 23:16

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Who Am I and Here's Why-Part 3 (Identity Theft-Ex 4) *(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. Let a few in the group share about an opportunity that they regret not having taken advantage of. As a group talk about what keeps us from seizing these opportunities.
2. Read Exod 4:10-13. What was Moses afraid of? What was wrong with his reasoning? If we expect to fail when God calls us to an action what mistake are we making?
3. Define true repentance. Explain how it is being sick of it, instead of just being sorry.
4. Discuss why these steps - admitting powerlessness, believing God can restore you, deciding to turn it over to Him, becoming ready for Him to remove your character defects, and then asking Him to do it - are the best way to overcome your past.
5. How do we distinguish between the things we can and cannot change? Why is it important to do this to be able to fulfill our God-given opportunity?
6. Why is simply making ourselves available so critical to allowing God to carry out the opportunity He has given us? What does true availability look like for you?
7. The bottom line for Moses is that he really didn't want to do what God called him to do. Why do you think he felt that way? Why do we do the same thing with things like worship, growing in the Word, and our witnessing?