I Samuel 23-24

Review…

- **Chapter 21-22 – On the Run…**
  - As the army of Israel returned from defeating Goliath – the people sang their praises…
    - Saul has killed his thousands – David has killed his ten thousands!
    - Saul was jealous of David – and determined in his heart to kill him!
  - Jonathan warned David – Saul did have every intention of putting David to death!
    - David fled to the city of Nob – where the priests gave him food and Goliath's Sword…
    - Then David fled to the Philistine city of Gath – but they recognized David…
    - So he acted like a mad man in – drooling / scratching at doors – to escape with his life!
    - David fled to a cave in Judah – and there an army of rejects began to gather to him
  - When Saul learned David was back in Israel – he was furious…
    - He found out the priests had helped David – and he had them all put to death!
    - Only Abiathar escaped and ran to David to find refuge from the wrath of Saul!

Hunted… (*3 things*)

- **1st – Helping in a time of need… vs. 1-15** Read: I Samuel 23:1-13
  - 1st - News came the Philistines were robbing the City of Keilah (*in Judah*)… vs. 1-5
    - The Lord told David to go and attack the Philistines and save the city…
      - David's men were afraid of traveling around Judah because Saul was hunting them…
      - How much more they were afraid of attacking the Philistines in Judah!
    - The men thought they needed help – so they were in no position to help others…
      - But when David asked the Lord again – God again told him to go and save Keliah…
      - So they went and fought the Philistines and God gave them the victory!
      - We think cause we need help/are poor - there is not much we can do to help others...
      - In fact we think we should be the one other people come to help…
      - But being used by the Lord to help has nothing to do with how much we have...
      - In the NT the poor church of Philippi - was only church to support Paul…
      - While one of the richest churches - Laodicea - was spiritually bankrupt!
      - **Revelation 3:17** - "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked..."
      - It is all about a heart that is humble - and being willing to follow the Lord!
      - And it is when we step out to bless others – God in turn blesses us!

- **Luke 6:38** – "Give, and it will be given to you…"

- 2nd - Seeking Godly counsel… vs. 6-9
  - Saul found out David was in the city of Keilah…
    - He figured David was trapped – 'God' had led him into a walled city – no way out!
    - But Saul had wiped out all the priests so he had no way of hearing from the Lord!
    - If we do not listen to the Lord - if we are not learning His word - we do not know...
    - We end up doing our best to guess - and more often than not - we get it wrong!

  - When David found out Saul was coming he called for Abiathar…
    - When Abiathar the priest fled to David – he brought with him the Ephod…
      - Inside of the Ephod were the Urim and the Thummim – **Exodus 28:15-30**...
      - No one is sure exactly what these were – perhaps a white and black stone...
      - You would ask God a 'yes' or 'no' question then pull out a stone from the pouch...
      - If it was white - then the answer was 'yes' / if it was black - the answer was 'no'
    - David had the only priest left in Israel – so he could ask God for direction!
      - We may not have the last priest of Israel – or the Urim or Thummim…
      - What we do have is even better – we have the Word of God to guide us!
      - The only question is do we take the time to seek the Lord so He can direct our lives!
- 3rd – David asked God two questions... vs. 10-15
  - 'Would Saul come down to Keilah as David had heard'…
    - God confirmed that Saul was coming – it was not just a rumor!
    - People say a lot of things – make a lot of promises / or even threats…
    - Just cause someone says something – or we hear a rumor – does not make it true…
    - If we want to know if something is true – we need to ask the Lord!
  - 'Would the men of Keilah betray him to Saul'…
    - God confirmed that the people of Keilah would betray David to Saul…
      - So David and his now 600 men of war – went and hid in the wilderness of Ziph…
      - And even though Saul hunted David – God did not let Saul find David!
    - David had saved Keilah from the Philistines – but they would still betray him…
      - When we help people in a time of need – we expect to be thanked for our effort…
      - But more often than not – the only reward we receive is complaints…
      - You give someone who has no food rice – and they complain it is too cold…
      - If we are seeking the praise and recognition of men – we will stop helping…
      - But if we are looking to serve the Lord – it does not matter what people do/say…
      - Because we are not doing it for them – we are serving the Lord!

- **2ND – FRIENDS AND ENEMIES… VS. 16-29** READ: I SAMUEL 23:26-28
  - 1st – Jonathan came to visit David in the wilderness of Ziph… vs. 15-18
    - Jonathan told David not to be afraid…
      - God would never let Saul find him – and David would be the next king of Israel…
      - So David and Jonathan renewed their covenant before the Lord!

- The people of Keilah had likely discouraged David…
  - So God sent Jonathan to encourage David – let him know he was not alone…
  - **Proverbs 15:4** – "Gentle words bring life and health…"
  - Not that we should look for the compliments – or encouragement…
  - As believers we should look for every opportunity to build each other up…
  - A kind word – a simple thank you – can give someone the boost to press on!

- 2nd – The men of Ziph came to Saul and told him where David was… vs. 19-29
  - They had seen David and his men hiding in the woods to the south of their city…
    - Saul was thrilled when he heard – at last someone was on 'his' side…
    - Saul wanted the men to verify the exact location of David before he attacked…
    - Saul knew David was 'slick' and would be very difficult to catch…
    - So the men of Ziph went and found David was in the wilderness of Maon…
  - Saul and his army went there to hunt David…
    - Saul was on one side of the mountain – while David was on the other…
    - He moved in to circle around and surround David and capture him…
    - But just then a messenger came to tell Saul the Philistines were attacking…
    - So Saul had to break of his hunt for David – to go and deal with the Philistines!
  - God likes to let things come down to the wire – before He steps in…
    - Jesus has the tendency to help us out at the perfect time…
    - The problem is His timing is NEVER our timing…
    - That tends to leave us a bit stressed some days – but God never fails to provide…
    - He is rarely early – but never late – He is always on time right when we need Him!

- **3RD – DO NOT TOUCH GOD'S ANOINTED… VS. 1-25** READ: I SAMUEL 24:1-7
  - 1st – Saul took 3000 elite troops to hunt David in En-gedi… vs. 1-7
    - En-gedi is a natural oasis located on the western edge of the Dead Sea…
      - It is a rock canyon carved into the side of the mountain by a fresh water stream…
      - Outside there is nothing but a desert furnace void of all life…
      - Inside there is a cool paradise full of goats (*gedi*) and fresh life giving water!
      - **Psalm 63:1** – "O God, You *are* my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water."
      - This world is a dry and empty desert – nothing it offers can satisfy our thirst…
      - But for those who are willing to look – Jesus is a fountain of life giving water!
    - When Saul arrived he went into a cave to 'relieve' himself…
      - But David and his men were hiding in that VERY cave!
      - His men encouraged David to kill Saul – 'God had delivered him into David's hand'…
      - So David crept forward – but only cut off the corner of Saul's robe…
      - He was convicted by his actions - 'The Lord forbid I should touch the Lord's anointed'…
      - Even though Saul had wandered far from God – God had still chosen him as King!
      - So David kept his men from harming Saul – and Saul went on his way…

- David recognized Saul's authority came from God…
  - **Romans 13:1** - "There is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."
  - Therefore we should obey and respect the authority God places over us…
  - We have a hard time with this concept – we see corruption – injustice all around!
  - If you want all men to have a rich and easy life – all leaders should be perfect…
  - If leaders were perfect – we would never learn to look to and trust in God…
  - It is in the imperfections of our governments we see our need for the Lord!
- Within the church - be very careful to bring an accusation against a pastor...
  - If someone makes an accusation - do not just take their word for it...
    - You never know what a persons motive might be...
    - They might just be Jealous / think they could do better job / be offended...
    - **I Timothy 5:19** - "Do not listen to complaints against an elder unless there are two or three witnesses to accuse him."
    - Always look into an accusation against a leader - confirm it by many witnesses!
  - Suppose there is a pastor with questionable actions (*not outright sin*)...
    - Should we do something about it - should we attempt to remove them...
    - If we step in to 'deal' with a leader who is not walking with the Lord...
    - We get in-between them and God - then God has to deal with us first...
    - Do not try and do God's job for Him - let the Lord deal with His servants...
  - If it is an issue of a pastor in open sin...
    - Unrepentant sin cannot be allowed to continue in a spiritual leader...
    - The process for handling the sin of pastor (*confirmed*) is **Matthew 18:15-17**...
    - If there is repentance then there is restoration - if not he should be removed

- 2nd – David called after Saul… vs. 8-15
  - With respect he called out – 'My Lord and my King…'
    - When Saul turned around to see him – David bowed down before the king…
    - David then asked Saul why he listened to the words men said about him…
    - People were telling Saul David intended to harm and kill him..
    - Yet when David had the opportunity – he showed mercy and let Saul live!
  - David showed Saul the corner of his robe he had cut off…
    - A man is known by his actions – whether he is good of evil…
    - David had proven there was no evil or rebellion against the King in his heart…
    - So why did the king want to hunt a 'dead dog' a 'flee' like David…
  - God would ultimately be the judge between the two of them…
    - Vengeance belongs to the Lord – He is the ultimate judge of men…
    - **Romans 12:19-21** – "Do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay," says the Lord… Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."
    - God does not promise that everyone will always get along with us…
    - But for our part we are not to seek revenge – not to stir up trouble – forgive in love!

- 3rd – Weeping Saul answered David – 'Is that you my son…' … vs. 16-25
  - David had acted more righteous than Saul – he had repaid good for evil…
    - Saul admitted that David would indeed one day be King…
    - He asked David to swear he would not kill of the descendants of Saul…
    - So David swore to Saul – and the king and his men went back home!
  - David did not become King that day – but his choice to spare Saul brought him closer!
    - A harvest does not happen the day after you plant the fruit...
    - You do not plant a seed - and expect there to be fruit on the braches in the morning...
    - And if you sat there and waited for the plant to grow - you would likely give up!
    - So often we want to see the good fruit from our efforts right now!
    - When the fruit does not come - we get tired - assuming nothing will every happen...
    - It is easy to get frustrated with the failures in our Christian walk...
    - It can be tempting to want to 'give up' - thinking things will never change...
  - Do not give up - good fruit takes time and patience to grow...
    - **Galatians 6:9** – "Do not get tired of doing what is good. Do not get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time."
    - Rather than looking for the fruit - we just need to keep busy serving Jesus...
    - As we are faithful to abide in Jesus - stand up for His Word...
    - In God's time we will bear great fruit - be used powerfully for the Lord!