

1 Samuel 26
“Fools Need Jesus and Mercy”

1 Sam 26:1-5 Saul seeks David again

1 Sam 26:1-5

1 Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?”

2 Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph.

3 And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which *is* opposite Jeshimon, by the road. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

4 David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul had indeed come.

Ziphites came to Saul

Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph,
 having **three thousand chosen men**

1 Sam 26:5 David examined the situation of the camp layout

1 Sam 26:5

5 So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Now Saul lay within the camp, with the people encamped all around him.

1 Sam 26:6-7 David, “who will go down into the Camp with me?”

1 Sam 26:6-7

6 Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruah, brother of Joab, saying, “Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?” And Abishai said, “I will go down with you.”

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him.

David answered... **“Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?”**

Proverbs 28:1

1 The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

1 Sam 26:8 Abishai wants permission to kill Saul

1 Sam 26:8

8 Then Abishai said to David, “God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with **the spear**, right to the earth; and I will not *have to strike* him a second time!”

Abishai said to David,

“God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. (**2 Sam 24- Cave**)
 let me strike him at once with the spear

1 Sam 26:9-11 David, refuses to touch Saul “the Lord’s anointed”

1 Sam 26:9-11

9 But David said to Abishai, “Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’s anointed, and be guiltless?”

10 David said furthermore, “As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.

11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD’s anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that *are* by his head, and let us go.”

David said to Abishai,

“Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’s anointed,

Psalm 105:15

15 *Saying*, “Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.”

1 Chronicles 16:22

22 *Saying*, “Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.”

and be guiltless?”**Psalm 75:6-7**

6 For exaltation *comes* neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. 7 But God *is* the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.

Daniel 2:20-21

20 Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.

21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.

Daniel 4:34-36 (Expound Story of Neb. After 7 years of madness)

34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *is* from generation to generation.

35 All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, “What have You done?” 36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.

As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him

David had just learned that God really will stand against those that don’t recognize his authority and honor and respect him as the Lord’s anointed.

1 Samuel 25:38–39

38 Then it happened, *after* about ten days, that **the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.**
 39 So when **David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal,** and has kept His servant from evil! For the LORD has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head.” And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife.

The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD’s anointed**Romans 12:17–21**

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord.

20 Therefore “*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*”

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Sam 26:12 David took Saul’s spear and water jug**1 Sam 26:12**

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water *by* Saul’s head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew *it* or awoke. For they *were* all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

1 Sam 26:13-14 David calls out to Abner and the other soldiers**1 Sam 26:13–14**

13 Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance *being* between them.

14 And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, “Do you not answer, Abner?” Then Abner answered and said, “Who *are* you, calling out to the king?”

1 Sam 26:15-16 David points out that Abner (Saul’s General) failed**1 Sam 26:15–16**

15 So David said to Abner, “*Are* you not a man? And who *is* like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king.

16 This thing that you have done *is* not good. *As* the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the LORD’s anointed. And now see where the king’s spear *is*, and the jug of water that *was* by his head.”

1 Sam 26:17-20 David speaks to Saul**1 Sam 26:17–20**

17 Then Saul knew David’s voice, and said, “*Is* that your voice, my son David?” David said, “*It is* my voice, **my lord, O king.**”

18 And he said, “Why does **my lord** thus pursue **his servant**? For what have I done, or what evil *is* in my hand? 19 Now therefore, please, let **my lord the king** hear the words of **his servant**: If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering. But if *it is* the children of men, *may they be* cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, ‘Go, serve other gods.’

20 So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD. **For the king of Israel** has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains.”

1 Sam 26:21 Saul, “I have sinned ...erred exceedingly

1 Sam 26:21

21 Then Saul said, “I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly.”

I have played the fool and erred exceedingly

- (the sad words of a man who needs a Savior to save him from himself and his own foolishness.)
- We need to remember as we read the Old Testament that Saul and the people of that day didn’t have the opportunity to know the Savior and Messiah, “Jesus”
- Saul’s words, “I have sinned...and erred exceedingly,” are true of us today. We desperately need a Savior to save us from our own foolishness and sin.

This is who our Lord Jesus Christ is; to chose us in our terminal foolishness:

- Jesus chose us in such a state:

1 Corinthians 1:26–29

26 For **you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh**, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*.

27 But **God has chosen the foolish things of the world** to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

- And Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves:

1 Corinthians 1:30–31

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, **who became for us wisdom** from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

31 that, as it is written, “*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*”

Romans 7:15

15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

Romans 7:19

19 For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice.

Romans 7:24–25

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8:1a

1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,

- What is the answer? Turn to Jesus, and let His word make you wise:

Psalm 19:7

7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple;

Joshua 1:7–9

7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.
8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

Psalm 1:2–3

2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

If you will be honest with yourself and God He will have mercy on you and save you:**Psalm 103:1–2**

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:

Psalm 103:4–5

4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,
5 Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:8

8 The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

Psalm 103:10

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 103:12–14

12 As far as the east is from the west, *So* far has He removed our transgressions from us.

13 As a father pities *his* children, *So* the LORD pities those who fear Him.

14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we *are* dust.

Saul would not truly repent and turn to God and His word:**1 Chronicles 10:13**

13 So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.

1 Sam 26:22-25 David's and Saul's final words to each other**1 Sam 26:22-25**

22 And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it. 23 May the LORD repay every man *for* his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into *my* hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. 24 And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the LORD, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation."

25 Then Saul said to David, "*May* you *be* blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail." So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

(vs. 23) May the LORD repay every man *for* his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into *my* hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed.

(vs.24) And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the LORD, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation."

Luke 6:35–38

35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."