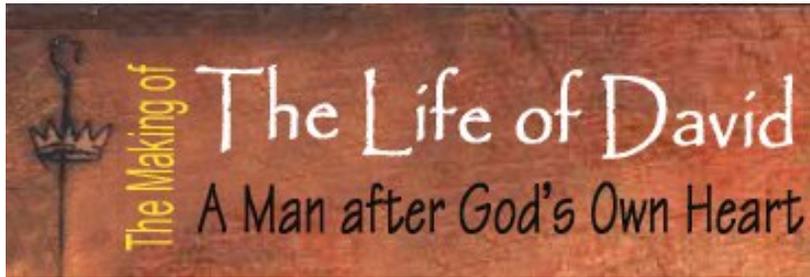




# 1 Samuel 23:1-13

*Learning to Inquire* Sunday, Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> 2006



## Hindsight is 20/20

- a clear understanding of what has already been
- Knowing what has happened is always easier than trying to predict what is going to happen.

## There is some truth in this thought

- Easier to look back in our lives....
- Easier to look back in others lives...

## This is a key understanding as resume our study of David

- Open Bibles to 1 Sam 23 📖
- Blessing, danger – we see his whole life...hindsight.
- We can lose sight of fact – he was living it-daily!

## Quick history up to this point

- Shepherd boy...worshiping God
- Anointed King....worship leader in Kings court
- Goliath – wonderful...then everything went south
- Not David's fault, did nothing wrong
- Ends up running away – to Philistine Territory
- God brought back...in land, 400 men join-roving

## David is in a 17 year training course

- First 10 – roving, vagabond
- Then 7 years in a limited reign
- Point – we know this about David, know where is
- David does not know – no map of course ahead
- Learning...following, one day at a time
  - Much like perhaps you today....

## God is training David....lets watch, learn from what God is teaching....

# I. Keilah Phase I

## 1. Situation at Keilah

### a. The horrible tactics of the Philistines

- i) Came at the end of their harvesting, threshing
- ii) Israel did all the work – they would come and raid and take the fruit of the labor

### b. Saul...unable...unwilling....distracted (with David)

- i) **Often this happens – Christians fighting against each other—and enemy takes advantage to rob**

## 2. David's Response

### a. David cares – account moves him

### b. David prays....that is good...so few go here

### c. David is willing to go! Wow

- i) Track with me...so rare...but so right
- ii) Many hear sad news, pray for God to help...
- iii) But...to take sad news you hear...ask God if He has anything for you to do about it
- iv) Wow....this is right. This is needed

### d. More...understand...this is not David's problem

- i) He is not King...yet. Saul is – his problem
- ii) Yet David cares, David is willing to help
- iii) **Illus–caring, to help Christians in another church**

## 3. David inquires of God – center on this thought

### a. Inquire...to ask, to seek direction from God

- i) Believe this is the major lesson in this section
- ii) Major lesson for you and I this morning

### b. First time that it is recorded in Bible that David inquired

- i) Not saying never happened before....
- ii) But no record of it

### c. From this point - will see it...many, many more times

- i) A mark of what makes a man after God's own heart....

### d. Say this...I think inquiring is far more rare than think

- i) Many say they want God's will...but don't ask
- ii) First – because Biblical inquiring requires ALL
  - A. **Eze 14:2** – speaks of God rejecting those w/ Idols
  - B. **Jer 42-43** – Ask God...NOT – had minds made up
- iii) Few...ask. Few really inquire...

## 4. Problem – opposing voices – contrasting advice

### a. Know this...happens, will happen

### b. Even “God's” people will see things differently

### c. Practically, their fears are correct

## 5. David inquires again

- a. Imagine David's heart...confused – goes back to God...sees if heard clearly...did!
- b. God is so patient...keep asking

## 6. David acts – saves city

- a. Worth noting. Doesn't just talk about – he does it!
- b. Also, to his men's credit – they follow

# II. David Gets the Ephod

## 1. What is an Ephod? What is this saying here?

- a. Ephod was officially part of the High Priests clothes 📖

## 2. Is a question, is this those clothes? High Priests?

- a. Not sure, seems there were other ephods
- b. Samuel has one as boy, 85 priests killed wore
- c. Perhaps just began to speak of linen clothes

## 3. Yet, Ephods, when used, were a place of guidance

- a. Is what it is used for here with David
- b. How did that work? Ex 28:29-30 📖
  - i) We don't know.... 😊
- c. Urim & Thumin -lit means Lights and perfections
  - i) Instead of telling us how...lets talk about "what"
- d. Over heart – carry burden...of others
- e. Perfect - Let God bring you into what is perfect
- f. Light - Let God light your path...one step at a time
  - i) This is what we see with David

# III. Keilah Phase 2

## 1. Situation now in Keilah

- a. David begins to live in the city
- b. Saul hears
  - i) Should have been thankful for what David did
  - ii) But isn't – one track, jealousy, sin
  - iii) Actually "thinks" God has trapped David
- c. Prepares war against David – has a target
  - i) Should have done in 1<sup>st</sup> place to save Keilah

## 2. David inquires – when hears of Saul, seeks to hear God

- a. Good advice...take everything to God
- b. More on the Ephod in a moment

## 3. Why does David ask what he asks of the Lord

- a. Prob. wondering why God had him come to Keilah

i) Perhaps thought this was beginning of reign...

ii) We can often take God's clear guidance—then extrapolate it to what we think God is doing

A. Do you ever do? I do...all the time☺

b. Key lessons in inquiring of the Lord...for David

c. **God's guidance comes in steps...not maps**

d. **Jer 10:23; Pro 20:24; Pro 16:9** 📖

i) Need to understand how God guides...steps

#### **4. David leaves – takes men, begins wandering again**

a. Grown to 600 men...perhaps some from Keilah

#### **5. Notice how David leaves...just does – no fit, no anger**

a. David risked his life for this town - Make sense if they were so loyal to David for rest of lives!

b. They are not....imagine what David could feel

c. But he doesn't – no Psalm from this, no fit, anger

#### **6. How can David respond this way? What's happening?**

a. **Believe this is part and parcel of what David is learning**

i) David is learning to inquire of God - ask Him

b. One of the benefits of living this way – freedom

i) Why isn't David upset?

ii) Didn't do it for them, didn't do it for what get

iii) Therefore...able to move on w/o pain

c. **This is and will be a key lesson for David**

i) Believe this is a key lesson in serving God

ii) How will you handle unreciprocated goodness

A. You do something for someone else – good

B. Yet, there response is not in kind...bad

iii) If you motive is self seeking – crush you

A. But if you motive is obeying God...freedom

B. You can trust Him with the big picture

d. **Listen...it is a tough, needed lesson**

i) Needed in serving God

ii) Needed in marriages, in parenting...jobs, etc

e. **David did what he did...in simple obedience**

i) Obedience...that is what God is working in David! – what makes a man after God's heart

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## Conclusion

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### Story of a man God tells to push a rock

- Every day, gets command – push that rock....
- Day after day, same command – does it
- After weeks and weeks – finally gives up
- Tells God he cannot move the rock
- God answers “Son, I never asked you to move the rock – I just asked you to push it”. Why?
- Learned obedience, patience....more I have been making you strong

Inquire of the Lord...continually

Know how He guides...steps not maps

Know the freedom of inquiring of God – leave big picture to Him

Proverbs 3:5-6 

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## Gospel

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### Who is God in your life?

- Silly question? Who is in charge, who handling all the problems, issues

**Come to Me, all you who labor & are heavy laden, & I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Mt 11:28-30)**

God is calling you to him...let Him handle big stuff