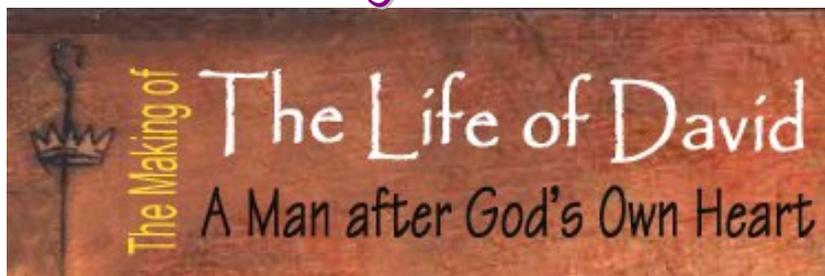




1 Samuel 26

Death to Self-Again Sunday, May 21st 2006



Déjà vu

- a phrase that perhaps we all know, have heard
- French phrase that began to be used in the late 1800's – simply means – “already seen”
- It is a feeling that as one is going through a situation, that they have already seen or experienced it before
- New situation, experience...but it is not new

David has such an experience as we open up to 1 Sam 26

- As we look at the situation unfolding in Chap 26, it is so similar to chap 24 that it has troubled some
- Bible critics have accused it of being two different tales about the same situation – NOT
- Bible teachers have often lumped two together
- Yet, there is something very profound, important for us to consider in this chapter...

I. Background

1. God is molding, shaping David

- a. Period of 17 years – formative, preparation years
- b. In these years – David is learning key lessons

2. Key lesson David is learning here – Self Denial

- a. Dying to self, surrendering to the Lord
- b. Such a key lesson in the Christians life

3. Self Denial Lesson number 1 (101) - 1 Sam 24

- a. Ziphites betray David
- b. Saul comes out against David – rescued providentially
- c. Saul comes again w/3,000 men
- d. David has opportunity to kill Saul...doesn't
- e. Wonderful lesson...key in David's life

4. Self Denial Lesson number 2 (201) – 1 Sam 25

- a. God took this lesson deeper, wider
- b. One thing to leave Saul in God's hands
- c. But what about Nabal? Fool – mocked David
- d. David almost did not do it – that is die to self
 - i) Rallied his 400 men – going to kill Nabal & all
 - ii) God sent Abigail to David – rescued him from
- e. David learned...applied more

5. Self Denial Lesson number 3 (301) – 1 Sam 26

- a. Continuing lesson...more to understand
- b. Lets work through the story...then seek to pan back and understand the lesson from God

II. The Story

1. Saul is pursuing David...Déjà vu

- a. Ziphites betray David, 3,000 men

2. David goes to Saul

- a. First checks out with spies, then goes to Saul
- b. Takes Abishai – bold warrior, his nephew
- c. **Wait – this is different than chap 24**
 - i) In chap 24 – David scared, hiding in cave
 - ii) Here is a boldness– facing situation, fearless

3. David is tempted

- a. **Again – need to understand how tempting this is**
 - i) Saul is his enemy, making life miserable
 - ii) Further–Saul is hindering David from being king
 - iii) In one moment – David could change all that
- b. **Abishai offers to do it**
 - i) Perhaps knows David will not do it
 - ii) Believes God is in this...wants to do it, willing

4. David's victory

- a. **Immediately David says “no”...this is new also**
 - i) With Saul...slow learn...cut robe...then no
 - ii) With Nabal – almost did it
 - iii) But here– knows immediately that answer is no
- b. **How does David have the victory**
 - i) Obviously learning from previous lessons
 - ii) Knows to do so – would taint, harm
 - iii) Believes God will deal with it, His way, His time
 - A. Gives three possibilities....just knows He will
- c. **Instead – David again takes proof**

- i) Picture -could take life...could take sustenance

5. David Rebukes Abner

- a. Kind of odd in a way – rebukes these for not protecting the king – a capital punishment thing
- b. Yet – in truth – was a God thing
- c. **Why does David do this? Further show heart**
 - i) Not only did not kill Saul – but protected Saul

6. David Pleads with Saul

- a. Why? What have I done?
- b. Who is stirring you up
 - i) Still believing the best

7. Saul's Admission

- a. **I have sinned**
 - i) Saul is busted again...see's sin against David
- b. **I will harm you no more...says again**
 - i) David will not believe him...but says anyway
- c. **I have played the fool**
 - i) Such true words...such horrible words
 - ii) Study itself – but this describes Saul
 - iii) What will describe your life?

8. David's response

- a. **It is a response of wisdom**
 - i) Doesn't go to Saul, Asks for a man
 - ii) There is practical wisdom in David's moves
 - iii) That is not a lack of faith
- b. **It is a response of trust...in God**
 - i) David places no hope in Saul's promises
 - ii) David did right to Saul...looks for God to repay that
 - iii) This is a key principle – for all our lives

- A. Look to God as our rewarder, provider
- B. Col 3:23-24 📖

III. What is the Lesson?

1. In one sense...it is so clear

- a. God is teaching David more about self denial
- b. Hard lesson to learn...for him...for us

2. The main lesson – Self Denial is a daily thing

- a. Godly self denial, not a one time thing, continual
- b. Luke9:23 – focus on the daily
- c. Isa 50:4 – morning by morning

3. Why do we need to know this?

a. Need to know there is no silver bullet, quick fix

- i) For many of us – if there was, we are on it!
- ii) The reality is – that is not what God is working

b. A good understanding of this – protects us

- i) False teachings promise this – without effect
- ii) Also – some create a legalism, instead of this.

c. Why does God do it this way?

- i) Cannot fully answer for God
- ii) But this I know – causes continual dependence
- iii) Helps us to be constantly relatable – witness

4. David is doing it – learns this well

- a. He is bolder, quicker to deny self – wonderful
- b. Will tell you that it gets easier, quicker – able to quickly die to self – when know...just continual

5. Wish I could end it right here...up note

- a. David progressing, getting stronger in self denial

- i) In one sense, this lesson, he passes with the highest grade....wonderful

b. Problem....doesn't last. David doesn't stay here

- i) As David learns, it is this understanding that causes him to pull back from God...foolishly
- ii) Read 1 Sam 27:1-4
- iii) Next week we will look more at this

c. Seeing the continual battle – David pulls back

- i) Benefit – Saul backs off...satan backs off
- ii) But the duration of that time, miserable for David. Again – that is next time
- iii) Just wanted you to see David's struggle with

d. My hope is that this understanding today...won't cause you to make David's mistake

- i) Actually quite a fear for me in this lesson – don't want to discourage any hearts
- ii) Cost him...it would cost you
- iii) One of the things I love about God is His straight forward honesty...yet is hard
- iv) But this I know...it is also good...best

Conclusion

Problem with the Real Christian life...is that it is so daily

- But that is also its wonder
- That is also its power
- Don't worry about tomorrow...live today
- Be a living sacrifice

Gospel

Sometimes Christianity is accused of being a brainless religion. Some, who know nothing about it – think that to become a Christian is to surrender you brain and become a walking robot

Opposite is the truth – real Christianity brings you alive, your mind and all...and forces you to live everyday

Jesus died to bring you to life