

SERMON SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS, 03/23/14

1 Samuel 23-24 — “David the Merciful,” Ryan Kelly

In a sentence: The story of David's flight from Saul gives us insight into David's character and increasingly clear hints for what to expect in Christ.

SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

1. David and Keilah – Salvation and Betrayal (23:1-12)
2. David and Abiathar – Guidance and Protection (23:2-14)
3. David and Jonathan – Strengthening Friendship (23:15-18)
4. David and Ziphites – Rejection and Plotting (23:19-25)
5. David and Saul – Threat and Deliverance (23:27-29)
6. David and Saul – A Close Encounter (Ch. 24)
 - Opportunity and Mercy (24:1-7)
 - Confrontation and Confidence (24:8-15)
 - Recognition and Request (24:16-22)

HELP FOR UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

Sunday's sermon took us through a number of scenes, each with their own contribution to the unfolding story. For our purposes, we are going to focus on David's close encounter with Saul in chapter 24.

1. 1 Samuel 24 gives David an opportunity to reverse his circumstances. What were those circumstances and what was that opportunity? What good reasons might David have had for doing so, including those offered by his friends? What did David do instead? What insight do we get here into David's unique depth of character in contrast to Saul? In what ways were David's men like Jesus' disciples, and David like Christ?
2. According to his own speech (v8-15), what inner reality of David's life allowed him not to kill Saul? Keying off of David's example, in what promises should we take comfort in the midst of our experience of injustice in this life (Romans 12:19)? What specific injustices/mistreatments have presented you with the most spiritual trial in your life? How did you respond? How did God shape your character through that trial?
3. In what ways does this part of David's life and suffering point us to Jesus Christ? You may recall that at the end of his sermon Ryan gave a number of specific parallels between David and Jesus.

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

Jesus, What a Friend of Sinners:

- 1) Jesus, what a friend for sinners! Jesus, lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, He, my Savior, makes me whole.
Chorus: *Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah! What a Friend! Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.*
- 2) Jesus, what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He, my strength, my victory wins.
- 3) Jesus, what a help in sorrow! While the billows over me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking, He, my comfort, helps my soul.
- 4) Jesus, what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
Storms about me, night overtakes me, He, my pilot, hears my cry.
- 5) Jesus, I do now adore Him, More than all in Him I find.
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am His, and He is mine.

Parallels between David and Christ: “Remember how Jesus responded to Peter's sword-swinging ways (Matthew 26:53). Remember how Jesus responded to Pilate who asked if he was a king and where was his kingdom (John 18:36). Remember how Jesus responded to those crucifying him? He prayed for them (Luke 23:34). Remember that like David, the true and final Christ had to suffer (Luke 24:26; Acts 17:2-3; 26:22-23). Remember that Jesus suffered as both a payment for sin and a path to follow (1 Peter 2:21-24).”