

## FIRST SAMUEL

### Lesson 41: Chapters 24 and 26: David's Spirit of Meekness, Saul's Spirit of Hypocrisy

14 April 2017

#### **DAVID SPEAKS TO SAUL IN MEEKNESS (24:8-15)**

Proverbs 15:1 provides us with good reasons to speak “softly” in situations where your words could ultimately make matters worse if you're not careful about what you say and the tone you use as you speak. If David wants to cool down the wrath of Saul against him, he knows he'll need to choose his words carefully.

1. He gave Saul the benefit of the doubt. He deflected the blame for Saul's wicked actions away from Saul by suggesting that he'd been misinformed by men who wanted to turn him against David (vs. 9).
  - a. See the apostle Paul's use of “soft words” in Acts 26:1-3.
  - b. If you want people to hear what you want to say to them (i.e. the Gospel), then you need to make sure you don't attack them (their religion, their activities, etc.) in your introduction.
2. David revealed to Saul that the Lord was not with him in his vendetta against him as he had supposed (1 Sam. 23:7). In fact, the Lord had delivered Saul into the hands of David and his men (1 Sam. 24:10).
  - a. The hem of Saul's garment represented his ability to protect his people, which David stripped from him, proving he couldn't even protect himself. See Ruth 3:8-10, Ezekiel 16:6-8

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#### **SAUL'S VAIN CONFESSION (24:16-22)**

1. Saul opens his response with weeping (vs. 16).
    - a. One characteristic of a person possessed of an evil spirit (1 Sam. 16:14, 18:10, 19:9) is that they weep uncontrollably (Ezek. 8:14, Mark 5:5, 1 Kings 18:28).
    - b. The Holy Spirit does not forcibly take control of your emotions or your body (1 Cor. 14:29-33).
      - i. When God gives you a spiritual gift, it is yours to use as you will.
  2. Saul increased his guilt with his confession (vs. 17).
    - a. Saul admits that David is right and he is wrong, but he has no plans to correct that (James 4:17).
      - i. This emphasizes the importance of repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). If you pray a sinner's prayer with no intention of changing the way you live, your prayer was vain.
    - b. David's righteousness was evident and it gave glory to God (Matt. 5:16).
  3. Saul couldn't understand David's mercy (vs. 19) because he'd never shown mercy to anybody.
  4. He was only concerned with himself (vs. 21). See Philippians 2:4.
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## **CHAPTER 26: SAUL'S RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF DAVID / DAVID PROVES GOD IS NOT WITH SAUL**

(We've skipped chapter 25 for now so that we can stay on topic. Lord willing, next week we'll study chapter 25).

Chapter 26 emphasizes the fact that **"Safety is of the Lord"** (Psalm 21:31). Saul would be dead if not for God's protection (his men certainly weren't able to protect him while they slept). David would not be safe going down to the enemy camp if the Lord had not caused a "deep sleep" to fall upon them all (vs. 12).

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### **SAUL'S CONFESSION OF SIN (Vs. 21)**

Saul's confession of sin is, once again, insincere. The Bible record contains several men who made a similar confession: Saul (1 Sam. 15:24, 30, 26:21, Pharaoh (Exodus 9:27, 10:16), Balaam (Numbers 22:34), Achan (Joshua 7:20), Shimei (2 Sam. 19:20), and Judas Iscariot (Matthew 27:4).

Simply admitting that you're a sinner won't get you out of hell. There was no change of heart; no change of direction in their life, no faith in God, and no acknowledgment that they'd sinned against God Himself and must deal with Him about it.

David also made this confession of sin, but he was sincere (2 Sam. 12:13, 24:10, 17, Psalm 51:4), as was the prodigal son (Luke 15:21).

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### **WHY GOD PUTS MEN IN A DEEP SLEEP**

1. TO PROTECT HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR ENEMIES (1 Samuel 26:12)
  2. TO PROTECT YOU FROM PAIN (Genesis 2:16-22). God's grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9).
  3. TO PROTECT YOU FROM SATANIC WARFARE (Genesis 15:12-16). (See 1 Cor. 10:13).
  4. SO THAT GOD MAY SPEAK WITH MAN'S DESIRES LAID ASIDE (Job 33:12-20). (See Matthew 27:19).
  5. BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO LAZY TO WORK (Prov. 19:15) (You do this to yourself).
  6. GOD'S JUDGMENT UPON THOSE THAT REJECT HIS WORD (Isaiah 29:9-12).
  7. THE PREACHER PREACHES TOO LONG (Acts 20:9).
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