

27. What was David's response to Achish? (Read 1 Samuel 29:8,11)

28. Do you think David really wanted to serve Achish or was he lying again trying to cover his tracks? Why?

29. Why do you think God chose to intervene for David and not for Saul?

IV. THE LESSONS OF DAVID AND SAUL. There are so many similarities between these two men. Both were anointed by God to be kings of Israel. Both committed sin in order to advance their own causes. Yet, there is a unique difference between them that bears further study.

Lesson One: Read Genesis 6:5. What does a person think about continually who is away from God? Can you commit only one sin?

Lesson Two: Read Jeremiah 17:9. How wicked can a person become if they do not stay close to the Lord?

Lesson Three: Read James 1:15. What is the power of sin?

What lesson have you learned about sin from this study?

In Conclusion. There doesn't seem to be much difference in their spiritual lives between Saul and David at this point. But God tells us He looks at a man's heart, not the outward appearance. Saul's heart was stony cold toward the Lord while David's heart was soft and moldable. God had given Saul every possible chance to repent. Yet, Saul never did. But David was different. Every time God took him to the woodshed, David repented and learned a little more how to be a proper king for Israel. If you remember from last week's lesson, after David left Achish, he went to Ziklag to find his city burned and all the women and children gone. 1 Samuel 30:6-7 describes his repentance and return to the Lord. One more lesson learned. David had one more trial, and then he would be ready to be king.

Second Baptist Church
Sunday School Lessons
Week 8 out of 18

THE TENDER WARRIOR, THE LIFE OF DAVID

1 Samuel 28 & 29

TWO MEN IN MISERY

The next time someone tells you that the Bible is unexciting, just tell them to read First and Second Samuel. You can't find a better story for intrigue and mystery. And this story is not only true, but it is a message from God sent to us to make us better men and women. God never sugarcoats the truth. So when He says that David was man after His own heart, I believe Him. But David was human, just like you and me, and he had to learn the same lessons we have to learn. God doesn't cover up David's sins any more than He covered up Saul's. But there is a distinct difference between the two men. In the end, one cared about what God thought and the other didn't/

1. In your opinion, what is the difference between David and Saul?
2. What led them both from God?

I. DAVID'S MISERY There were three factors that probably incited the Philistines to attack Israel: the death of Samuel, the absence of David from Israel and the general dissatisfaction with Saul as King. In his disobedience to the Lord, David had directly caused the enemy to rally against Israel again.

3. What did Achish ask David to do? Why do you think Achish thought he had the right to ask David this question? (Read 1 Samuel 28:1)
4. Do you think Achish was testing David's loyalty to him?
5. What do you think David was really telling Achish? (Read 1 Samuel 28:2)

6. What military position did Achish promise David?
7. What was David's dilemma and what misery was he feeling?

II. SAUL'S MISERY. Saul had so despised God and His word, that he had refused to hear Samuel the Prophet, killed most of the spiritual leaders of the nation, and had tried to murder God's anointed. Now, in his time of deepest trouble, he turned to a Satan worshipper for answers instead of God.

FYI: Endor was long held in memory by the Jewish people as connected with the great victory of Deborah and Barak over Sisera and Jabin. The distance from the slopes of Gilboa to Endor is seven or eight miles, over difficult ground. This area skirted the Philistine encampment.

8. Who had died and who was no longer allowed in Israel? (Read 1 Samuel 28:3)
9. Where did Israel gather to battle the Philistines? (Read 1 Samuel 28:4)
10. When Saul prayed, what happened? Do you think it was because he did not repent when he prayed? (Read 1 Samuel 28:5-6)
11. When can we find God? What keeps us far away from God? (Read 1 Samuel 28:7)
12. What causes God to not hear our prayers? (Read Psalms 66:18)
13. What does this tell you about Saul's prayer life? (Read 1 Chronicles 10:14)
14. Read 1 Samuel 28:7, what Law was Saul breaking? Now read Deuteronomy 18:10, whose Law was really being broken?
15. What happened next? (Read 1 Samuel 28:8-10)

16. Why do you think the woman screamed when Samuel appeared? She evidently had seen "spirits" before. (Read 1 Samuel 28:11-12)
17. How did Saul know it was Samuel? (Read 1 Samuel 28:13-14)
18. According to this passage, do you think that Samuel actually appeared before Saul and talked to him? (Read Ezekiel 14:7-8)
19. Who else came back from the dead and talked to someone here on earth? With whom did they talk? (Read Matthew 17:1-3)
20. Why did Saul want to talk to Samuel? (Read 1 Samuel 28:15)
21. Who was now Saul's enemy? (Read 1 Samuel 28:16)
22. What judgment was pronounced on Saul for his rebellion against God? (Read 1 Samuel 28:17-19)
23. Describe Saul's misery. (Read 1 Samuel 28:20)

III. THE LORD'S INTERVENTION. David became good friends with at least one of the Philistines lords, Achish. And now that war had broken out between Israel and the Philistines, David found himself in an awkward spot. Had God not intervened, David would have done something that he would have regretted the rest of his life.

24. How did the lords of the Philistines react to David and his men being their ally? (Read 1 Samuel 29:1-3)
25. What was their reason for not wanting David on their side? Do you think there was some logic to their reason? (Read 1 Samuel 29:4-5)
26. What was Achish's opinion of David? Do you think he trusted David? (Read 1 Samuel 29:3,6-7,9-10)

