

## 12 – THE CHOICE TO MAKE (1 SAMUEL 24:1-26:25)

### I. David Spares Saul (1 Samuel 24:1-22)

#### A. Saul Becomes Vulnerable (24:1-3)

- After pursuing the Philistines, Saul once again searched for David with 3,000 men.
- The writer states that Saul left his troops to attend his needs in a cave.
- Saul entered the cave that David and his men were staying in.

#### B. David's Hasty Act (24:4-7)

- David's men encouraged David to kill Saul, saying this is what David was promised.
- David arose and went and cut off the corner of Saul's garment.
- David's conscious troubled him and proclaimed he was not to lift his hand against Saul.
- David restrained his men from attacking the king and Saul left the cave.

#### C. David Confronts Saul (24:8-15)

- Calling out to Saul, David stoop and bowed down when Saul responded.
- David questioned why Saul listened to rumors claiming that David wanted to kill him.
- David pointed out that the Lord gave him into his hand and he spared the king.
- David showed him the corner of the robe and pointed out that Saul still seeks him.
- David called on the Lord to judge between he and Saul and to avenge him.

#### D. Saul's Remorse (24:16-22)

- Crying out, Saul proclaimed that David was more righteous than he.
- Saul proclaims that he knows that David will become king and establish Israel as a nation.
- He has David swear not to destroy his house, which David swore.
- Saul then went home and David returned to his stronghold with his men.

### II. David Spares Nabal (1 Samuel 25:1-44)

#### A. The Death of Samuel (25:1)

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- The writer records that Samuel died and was buried in Ramah as all Israel lamented.

## B. The Man called Nabal (25:2-3)

- The writer introduces the reader to a very rich man in Carmel named Nabal.
- Nabal was evil in his doings, but he had a wife, Abigail, who was wise and beautiful.

## C. David's Request (25:4-9)

- David heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep and sent his men to bring greetings.
- They were to request supplies, since David and his men have been protecting Nabal's flocks.

## D. Nabal's Rejection and Insult (25:10-13)

- Nabal responded to the men by insulting David as a runaway servant from his master.
- After Nabal rejected David's request, the men quickly returned to David with the reply.
- David then mustered 400 men to arm themselves and go with him.

## E. Abigail Intervenes (25:14-20)

- Nabal's servant informed Abigail about the master's treatment of David's men.
- He also informed her about how David's men provided them protection.
- He warned her, that because of Nabal's actions, harm is coming to the household.
- Abigail quickly had the servants gather supplies and went to meet David with them.

## F. David's Anger (25:21-22)

- David expressed his anger that Nabal treated him that way since he protected his flocks.
- David proclaimed that he will kill every male in Nabal's household.

## E. Abigail's Pleads With David (25:23-31)

- Abigail pleaded with David not to take vengeance on them since Nabal was a fool.
- She also reminds David that he will be an enduring house and doesn't want this grief.
- She tells David to remember her when the Lord deals with his enemies.

## F. David Responds (25:32-35)

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- David praised the Lord for sending her to keep him from avenging himself.
- he took her supplies, blessed her and sent her on her way.

## G. Nabal's Death (25:36-38)

- At home, Abigail found Nabal feasting and waited to till morning to speak with him.
- She told Nabal all that happened and David's plan to kill him.
- Nabal suffered a stroke and died ten days later because the Lord struck him.

## H. David's Response (25:39-44)

- After the period of mourning for Nabal, David sent for Abigail to be his wife.
- David also took another woman from Jezreel to be his wife.
- The writer records that Saul gave Michal, his daughter and David's wife, to another.

## III. David Spares Saul Again (1 Samuel 26:1-25)

### A. Saul Seeks David Again (26:1-4)

- Once again, the Ziphites told Saul where David was hiding.
- So, Saul took 3,000 men to search for David in the Wilderness of Ziph.
- David saw that Saul was coming for him again and sent spies to confirm the report.

### B. David's Second Opportunity (26:5-13)

- As Saul and his troops were camping, David took some men and went to the camp.
- Once again, David's men wanted to kill Saul for him, but David restrained them.
- David proclaimed that the Lord would strike him and took Saul's spear and water jug.
- No one knew that David was there because they were in a deep sleep from the Lord.

### C. David Confronts Saul (26:14-20)

- From a safe distance, David called to Abner and rebuked him for not protecting the King.
- Saul recognizing David's voice, asked if the speaker was David.
- David questioned why Saul was chasing him again and if God or people were responsible.

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### D. Saul's Remorse (26:21-25)

- Saul expressed that he has sinned and asked David to return.
- David offered Saul's spear back and proclaimed that the Lord will repay.
- Saul returned to his home and David went on his way.