### LESSONS THIS QUARTER

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### INTRODUCTION

- David remained true to his convictions to do no harm to God’s anointed king, but Saul oscillated between sparing David and seeking his death.
- What would you do if someone seeking his death...
  - Would you go into hiding as David did?
  - Would you contact God’s people to help him or you?
- **Consider this.** David was waiting on the Lord’s timing to assume his role as King. He would not take matters into his own hands.

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| 1Samuel 22:1-5 | **The Downtrodden Become David’s Army**  
- vv1-2. Society’s outcasts gather around David.  
- How could a gathering of losers be a good thing?  
- Wouldn’t those who ran away from their debts soon run away from you after taking your things?  
- Wouldn’t complainers soon complain about you?  
- v5. David heeded prophet Gad’s advice to head back to Judah, which was enemy territory. WHY?  
- **Consider this.** The providence of God needed to play out between King Saul and future King David. |
| 22:6-23 | **Providence Plays Out**  
- A godly man, Ahimelech, & 85 other priests and their families were slain because he did the right thing  
- Could this have been prevented?  
- Psalms 41:2, a psalm of David states, “The Lord will protect the generous man who helps those in need [Ahimelech helped David], and will not deliver him into the hands of his enemies.”  
  - Why don’t we have a contradiction?  
  - How do we answer the critics on this?  
- **Consider this.** This is a general or a proverbial principle and not a universal or absolute truism. We have to factor in other scriptures where God allows the wicked to slay the righteous for reasons only God knows (Ps 10:8; 37:32; 94:21; Job 1) |
| 23:1-14 | **David Inquires of the Lord**  
- vv2, 4, 10-12, Though David was anointed and he was considered a prophet, yet he seldom assumed anything, but he frequently sought God’s guidance  
- We don’t have ephods, lots or Urim & Thummim, so how should we seek God’s guidance today?  
  - Should we Pray?  
  - Should we flip a coin?  
  - Should we consult Scripture?  
  - Or friends?  
- What gives us assurance we have received God’s guidance on a matter? |

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| 23:15-29 | **The Reason for Saul’s Anger**  
- vv21-23. The wicked (King Saul in this case) sent out the wicked to spy out the righteous to do them harm  
- Ps 37:32 The wicked spies upon the righteous and seeks to kill him.  
- Who is looking to do us harm, and how should we combat or prepare for some tough days?  
- v22. David is very crafty. Anything wrong with using deceitful means to preserve one’s life? ........Depends  
- vv27-29. Again, God’s providence comes in to play and preserve’s David from capture by sending Saul on a wild-goose chase  
- v28. Sela-hammah-lekoth – The “Cliff of Escapes” or the “Rock of Division” – David always like to have reminders of where God rescued or blessed him  
- How do we recall God’s goodness in our lives? |
| 24:1-7 | **Opportunity to Slay Saul**  
- vv3-4. Saul takes a bathroom break, and David refuses to take advantage of the situation. Was this wise? In hindsight, yes it was.  
- **Consider this.** Jer 41-42 presents a similar case where Gedaliah refused to have Ishmael killed. In the end Ishmael slew Gedaliah. Was Gedaliah wise in his dealing with Ishmael? |
| 24:8-22 | **In God We Trust, All Others Beware**  
- v13. David quotes an ancient proverb, “Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.” This is akin to you shall know them by their fruit.  
- We ought not judge someone’s heart or motives, but we can judge their words and actions  
- vv21-22. Saul and David part ways amicably, but David opts to flee further from Saul.  
- Some people we may have to love from a distance |

### CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- **Principle to Live By.** When bad fruit is evident in some of our so-called friends or family, it is often prudent to avoid the Sadducees and Pharisees for as long as He could.

**NEXT WEEK: 1Samuel 25.** We are introduced to Abigail, a woman who recognized she had a foolish husband (Nabal) who would get them all killed if she did not take matters into her own hands.