

# A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 26:1-25

"Blessed by our enemy" – October 22<sup>th</sup>, 2017



## Introduction

Sickness, joblessness, a challenging marriage, being slandered, being wronged by a friend... trials and hardships are never *fun*. And yet, because God's sovereign (in control of all things) and faithful (keeping His promises without fail), *nothing* for God's children. Even the hard and painful things, God lovingly turns and uses for good. That's why James can tell us "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4). For some time now, David has been enrolled in this 'school of hardship,' and as he learns to wait upon God for perfect justice, God is using the hardships to mature his trust in God and prepare him to be a king ready to lead a nation to trust in God as well.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

## Sermon Outline

- I. God can use hardships to make us confident in the dark (26:1-16)
- II. God can use hardships to help us trust Him for the greater reward (26:17-25)

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 26:1-16](#)

When we put chapters 24 and 26 side by side, we see how similar they are even though they are separate historical events. The writer puts them side by side to show us David's growth and the way God used the events in chapter 25 (with Nabal and Abigail) to teach David. What did David learn about God from the trial he faced in chapter 25 that helped him navigate the events in 26? Think back to the times when you've grown the most in your relationship with God. Most likely they've been times that God has used godly people (much like Abigail [22:32-33] or Jonathan [23:16]) and challenging circumstances. Who are those people you can thank God for? How did God use the hardships to help you rely on Him?

Important to note in this section is how David knew where he was headed (God had promised him the kingdom) and what he was supposed to do in the present moment (not lay a hand on Saul). What he didn't know, was how or when God would get him there (see v10). But because he'd come to see the character of God, he learned to be confident in the dark. If we are to be confident when we're in the dark regarding God's schedule, we must be in the light regarding His character. What are the ways you're challenged right now to trust God even though you don't know the details of how or

when God will get you to where He's promised? How does knowing our future is guaranteed, help us to wait? What are ways we can fix our attention to *who* God is when we can't see God's hand?

Additional reading: Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 10:23-25

2) Read [1 Samuel 25:14-31](#)

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells a parable about a man who sells *all* that he has to buy a field. He has nothing left! Purchasing the field cost him everything! But, Jesus says, he gave up everything "*in his joy*" ([Matthew 13:44](#)). How could he lose everything in joy? Because he knew in the field was a treasure with far greater value than he had given up. One key reason David was able to *wait* on God was because he had come to see God as the greatest reward. Though he was driven away from the presence of God (which at this point was in the Temple) he was confident that God rewards those who trust Him (see [v23](#)). It was thru the trial in chapter 25, David had come to realize more of God's unsearchable value. How can we come to see the true value, weightiness, and beauty of who God is? How can we find contentment, help and refuge in Him instead of false gods? Take time to discuss together ways you're tempted to trust something *other* than God or love *more* than God...then, turn to God in prayer – asking for His help to turn from false gods, to see His true value ([Psalm 119:18](#)), and wait for Him, our greater reward.

Additional reading: Psalm 73:25-26 (really all of Psalm 73 is worth reading!), Psalm 16:11

### **Prayer of Response**

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistum.com/media.php?pageID=6>