

The Lord Rewards Righteousness and Faithfulness

1 Samuel 26:1-25

Pray that God the Holy Spirit would give you spiritual understanding.

1. The Ziphites had already betrayed David in 1 Samuel 23. Read through the prayer David prayed to the Lord during that time in Psalm 54. What was David's comfort during that time according to the Psalm?
2. What is the similarity between David and Jonathan in v.6 compared with 1 Samuel 14:6? What does this teach us about their faith in God?
3. Why does Abishai think he was going with David according to v.8? What was David's reason for not following the advice of Abishai in v.9-11?
4. If David had killed Saul, his life would have been much easier since he would not have someone pursuing his life and he would be king. Are there are areas where you are tempted to take the easy way out which you know is against God's word? What should you do in that situation?
5. How is it that David was able to sneak into Saul's camp without anyone's notice according to v.12?
6. What do we learn about God's character in light of v.12, see also v.23b?
7. Why is it so important for David to prove his own innocence to Saul and prove Saul and his co-conspirators' guilt in v.18-19? Why does he speak so strongly against any who might have incited Saul to such actions against David? Take a look at Proverbs 17:15, 24:24.
8. In v.19-20 David is very sad about the prospect of spending his days among the Philistines. Why so? How is this problem given an answer in the coming of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit (John 1:14; John 4:23)?
9. In v.21 Saul admits that he has acted like a "fool" (the same word to describe Nabal in the previous chapter). List some of Saul's actions that the Bible would call foolish. David's wisest son would have words for fools. Look up some of them: Proverbs 1:7, 10:18, 15:5, 17:24.
10. How should we think of David's words "the LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness" (v.22) in light of Romans 3:10 and Matthew 6:1?
11. After Saul confesses his sin to David (v.21), David does not go back to Saul (v. 25b). Why not? If our fellow Christian sins against us and they ask forgiveness what should we do today? Look up Matthew 18:21-22. What is the relationship between forgiveness and trust?

Pray that God would enable you to look to his Son for strength, and by his Spirit to put his Word into practice.