

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
“Déjà Vu All Over Again!”
1 SAMUEL 26:1-25

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Introduction

What we see here in this Chapter this evening is what the late Yogi Berra would describe as “*It’s like déjà vu all over again!*”

The expression “*déjà vu*” is a French phrase that literally means, “*already seen*”. Déjà vu describes the feeling that what is happening to you at this moment has happened to you before. (*Repeat*). When you feel as if life is doing a double take, that’s *déjà vu*.

Not to be confused with “*vuja de*”= the feeling that what is happening to you has never, ever happened to you before, or, “*déjà moo*”= the feeling that you’ve heard all this bull before.

Here we see one of life’s *déjà vu* moments come to David. What David may have thought to have been over—that is, Saul’s pursuit after David to take his life—is not over, but this same trouble rears its ugly head again!

Remember a couple of chapters earlier how we saw Saul that saw was relentlessly chasing David bent on killing him? David showed Saul mercy and spared his life when he could have taken it, which at that time seemed to touch Saul’s heart, and they left on good terms with one another!

But something happened to set Saul off again, and so once again, he set out to seek and destroy David. David has to be asking himself, “*I thought we had all of this settled. I thought this problem was behind me. How many times do I have to go through this? What do I do now?*”

Have you ever had a problem that you dealt with and thought was gone, come back and rear its ugly head again in your life?

It seems that some problems don’t go away—in fact, sometimes they reappear at the worst possible moment. It’s like *déjà vu* all over again, and the trouble you hoped was finished starts all over. Very often in life, that’s the way it is!

What are we to do in circumstances such as this?

In 1 Samuel 26, I want us to see three principles to keep in mind when you have one of those “*déjà vu*” moments with trouble:

I. WE NEED TO BOLDLY FACE OUR PROBLEMS! (vs. 1-7)

There are some things that happen to you that you really don’t want to repeat, even if they turn out OK the first time.

You may notice many similarities between the events of chapter 24 and chapter 26:

Both times the Ziphites sent word to Saul about David’s whereabouts.

Both times Saul gathered a posse to seek out and destroy David.

Both times David got close enough to Saul to kill him, but instead spared his life.

Both times Saul and David part ways in peace.

But there are some significant differences.

The first time Saul stumbled into the cave where David and his men were hiding.

This time, David boldly made the first move:

First by sending spies to locate Saul and his army.

Once he discovered their location, he took a volunteer—Abishai, David’s nephew—and they sneaked into Saul’s camp at night.

The Bible doesn’t tell us what David’s plans were—maybe his aim was to do exactly what he did—but one thing is clear: David did not run away from his trouble; he boldly faced the problem head-on.

The first principle to keep in mind when trouble takes a double take is don’t run away. That doesn’t mean we don’t need to be cautious!

David didn’t go rushing into Saul’s camp swinging his sword and yelling, “*Bring it on!*” But he knew he couldn’t just keep running; he had to deal with this problem, using all the wisdom and courage he had.

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We will never get anywhere by trying to run when trouble does a “*déjà vu*” on us! The temptation to escape is sometimes stronger the second time we face a problem, because we remember how hard it was to deal with it the first time! We may still carry the scars of the last time we battled the difficulty, and the thought of going through that painful experience again may seem too much to bear!

But if we’ve tried everything we know to avoid trouble and it still seems inevitable, then it’s not time to cut and run, but to stand and fight! When trouble does a double take, we have to make up our mind to boldly face it and, with God’s help, do the best we can do.

Now there are some problems we can deal with by just walking away. But often, when trouble does a double take, running away is not the answer. We have to steel up our nerve, and boldly face the problem and do the best we can.

But what does “*doing the best we can*” involve? David demonstrates two things we must do when trouble does a *déjà vu* on us:

II. WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT! (vs. 8-12)

One of the temptations we face when trouble does a *déjà vu* is to try and figure out what to do differently. We may think that we obviously didn’t handle this right the first time, or it wouldn’t happen again.

But, that’s not always true; often the best way to handle trouble that does a double take is to just keep on doing the right thing! As David and Abishai slipped into the enemy camp, once again there was Saul as helpless as a sleeping baby, on the ground before David.

Abishai whispered to David that God had given him a second chance to settle this score with Saul once and for all. Abishai was even willing to do the honors himself. Abishai said he didn’t need but one shot and his spear would take care of the Saul problem forever!

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That had to be awful tempting for David? David had shown mercy to Saul once, and that didn’t seem to work. Satan may have been tempting him to believe that there really was no other way to get rid of this Saul problem except to kill King Saul.

But if David was tempted in that way, he resisted that temptation. But, once again, David swiped something close to Saul— this time it was a spear and a water jug—and once again, he left Saul unhurt and safely snoozing away. Once again, when trouble took a double take, David did the right thing.

It’s not always easy to keep doing what’s right. Sometimes when trouble does a double take we might be tempted to try something else, something different, something not quite right to handle our problem.

Last time that person maybe made that smart remark you stayed calm and ignored it. This time maybe you’ll give him a piece of your mind.

Last time you told the truth it got you into trouble. This time you wonder if a little white lie might be smarter.

Last time you did the right thing, and where did it get you? This time you wonder if doing wrong might be a better option. If doing right doesn’t do the trick, maybe doing wrong will at least make sure that this trouble won’t do another double take.

When we get to thinking that way is when we need to remember a special nugget of wisdom from God’s Word which tells us: *Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

We can’t do wrong and get by. It is never a good idea to sin, even when it seems logical, even when it seems reasonable, even when it seems unavoidable. We will always live to regret doing the wrong thing. We will always ultimately be glad we did the right thing.

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When trouble does a double take, if we are wise, we will do what is pleasing to God, not what pleases us!

If we did the right thing the first time around, that means we still need to do the right thing again. If we did the wrong thing the first time, then we have a second chance to get it right the second time.

But whatever we do, we shouldn't make the foolish mistake of choosing to sin in some way as our way out. Because sin is always just only another road to more trouble.

I saw a story where two hunters came across a bear so big that they dropped their rifles and ran for cover. One man climbed a tree while the other hid in a nearby cave. The bear sat down between the tree and the cave, and suddenly the hunter in the cave came rushing out, almost ran into the waiting bear, then turned around and dashed back in again. The same thing happened a second time. When he emerged the third time, his companion in the tree frantically called out, “Woody, are you crazy? Stay in the cave till he leaves!” “Can't,” panted Woody, “there's another bear in there!”

When we keep doing what's right sometimes we may feel stuck between a rock and a hard place. It is always easier to do the wrong thing than the right thing. But let me encourage you to always do what's right, and ultimately you won't be sorry.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

When trouble does a *déjà vu*, we must boldly face the problem by first of all making up your mind to do what is right. But we must also make another choice.

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III. WE NEED TO KEEP OUR TRUST IN GOD! (vs. 13-25)

Many people's trust in God seems pretty strong, until they're dealing with something really heavy or important. We really discover how strong our faith in the Lord is when it comes to dealing with trouble that does a double take.

We may notice that Saul has taken an extra precaution after his last encounter with David: he's got himself a personal bodyguard named Abner. Abner is Saul's cousin, the chief general of the King's forces, and the man personally responsible for Saul's safety.

In **vs. 15-16**, David ridicules Abner for his lack of security. In contrast, David declares in **vs. 23-24** where he has put his trust for safety:

Saul's trust was in his power, in Abner, and in the strength of his army!

David's trust was in the Lord, even when trouble did a *déjà vu* on him. Where is your trust?

If I were to ask, “*Do you trust God with all your heart?*” most everyone would most likely answer yes. But the truth is that many of us do not trust God like we should.

Let me tell you how you measure your trust in God:

You measure your trust in God by whether or not you have committed your life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. If you do not trust God in the area of your soul, and the forgiveness of your sins, you do not trust Him at all.

You measure your trust in God, not by what you say, but by what you do. Reading and following His Word. We can talk all day about trusting God, but if we do not obey Him, we do not trust Him. We measure our trust in God at how we handle trouble when it does a *déjà vu* on us!

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When trouble comes—the first time, the second time, the hundredth time—and we refuse to panic, and instead face our problems with our faith in God, determined to do what is right, then we are trusting God. When we can say with David what he sang in

Psalm 56:11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.