

## Message #64

## I Samuel 26:13-27:1

It is a wonderful thing to remember your final visit with people who go home to be with the Lord. I remember my final visit with Jerry Speedy. I remember the final Scripture I read to him and the final prayer I had with him. I remember my final visit with Marty Knip. We hugged. I remember my final visit with Mr. Miles. We talked about all kinds of things. These are good memories I will always have.

It should have been that way between David and Saul. This is the final meeting between David and Saul before Saul dies. It is somewhat of a good meeting, but it is also a sad meeting because the relationship between David and Saul was never what it should have been. Saul was never right with David and never right with God. In fact, what we see is this:

**THOSE WHO ARE LED OF SATAN DO ATTACK A TRUE MAN OF GOD AND THEY KNOW THEY ARE DOING WRONG; BUT THEY WILL NOT REPENT SO GOD WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY THEM.**

There is no question that there were moments in the life of Saul, when he knew he was doing wrong. There were moments when his heart was convicted to do what was right. But he did not really respond. He has some emotional times when he was sorry but emotional responses are not the same as real repentance.

Do not ever take conviction lightly. God is in conviction. If God convicts us of something, then respond to it. Make a conscious decision to respond. If we don't, we put ourselves on a dangerous path that could lead to some very serious consequences.

There are six interactions that are seen here between David and Saul:

**INTERACTION #1** – David puts a great physical distance between himself and Saul. **26:13**

David no longer trusted anything about Saul. We may remember that the first time David had a chance to kill Saul; he spoke to him right outside the cave (24:8). Now David puts a “large” distance between him and Saul. David gets on top of a mountain and keeps a vast chasm between him and Saul.

Now this would do two things militarily:

- 1) It would make it difficult to spot exactly where David was.
- 2) It would make it difficult to get to David if he were spotted.

What David is doing here is everything he humanly can do to keep a safe distance between himself and his enemies. God expects us to do what we can humanly do to protect ourselves when we find ourselves in threatening warfare situations.

There are some very foolish simpletons who think you should associate and fellowship with everyone. Frankly, there comes a point when we need to distance ourselves from people we know are not really after truth or a real relationship with God. These people are not our friends.

**INTERACTION #2** – David calls out to Saul’s soldiers. **26:14-16**

Once David was on top of the other side of the mountain, he called out to Saul’s army and he specifically called out to Abner. Abner was Saul’s military commander (I Sam. 14:50). David specifically was yelling for and naming Abner, and Abner wanted to know who was yelling at him. He wanted to know who was calling out to him and the king.

David responded to Abner by verbally insulting Abner and all the men with him:

- 1) Abner, are you a man?
- 2) Abner, aren’t you the most powerful military man in Israel?
- 3) Abner, why didn’t you guard your king?
- 4) Abner, one of the people came to destroy your king and you did not guard him.
- 5) Abner, you and your men are no good and all of you need to die.
- 6) Abner, you did not guard God’s anointed king.
- 7) Abner, go get the king’s spear and jug of water by the king’s head.

Now keep in mind that David is yelling at Abner and 3,000 men (26:2).

David is not afraid of the truth and he is not afraid to speak the truth even when he is outnumbered.

The fact is had David been Saul’s chief military commander, no one would have ever got near Saul. But Abner was not in David’s league. He loved the title and the power, but frankly he couldn’t do the job.

**INTERACTION #3** – Saul recognizes David’s voice. **26:17a**

Apparently it was still too dark to see who was yelling, but Saul thought he recognized David’s voice. So even though David is yelling at Abner, Saul responds and wants to know if it were David.

Now Saul calls David “my son.” This shows you how fickle Saul is. He is an emotional nut. He identifies David as “my son” among 3,000 men who are out to kill David.

The idea of being able to recognize someone by their voice is not a new forensic science; it is as old as the Bible.

There is a principle to glean from this and that is when the truth of God is spoken by a true servant of God, the ears perk up, even among those who are not right with God.

**INTERACTION #4** – David responds to Saul. **26:17b-20**

Here is a masterpiece of true innocence. Here is the blueprint for clearing your own name. Although this does not really change Saul, it does clear David.

There are three verbal responses of David to Saul:

**Verbal Response #1** - David asks Saul why he is pursuing him. **26:18a**

The real true answer to this question is that Saul is pursuing David because of his Satanic pride and jealousy. David has not done one thing wrong and yet Saul hated David because David is right with God and he is not.

**Verbal Response #2** - David asks Saul what he has done wrong. **26:18b**

David asks Saul to specifically tell him what it was that he had done wrong. In other words, precisely name my sin. David says tell me the evil that I have committed that has caused you to bring 3,000 men out here to kill me.

Truth is David has done nothing wrong and there is not a thing Saul can name. Evil, Satanic people operate by emotions and feelings and not facts. As we have said, “the Devil is never in the details.” Saul cannot name one thing.

Mary and I have lived this and Dennis and Sherry can testify of this. In Pocatello, people went out of their minds. Mr. Miles said the reason why is that God wanted this ministry in Kalamazoo. But when we would ask them what exactly have we done that makes you so against us, their answer would be “If you only knew.” We would say, “If we only knew what.” We don’t know so tell us. They couldn’t name one thing because there wasn’t anything.

That was Saul. He couldn’t name one thing. I heard a news commentator this week ask a question. What exactly has President Trump done that has not been good for the country?

**Verbal Response #3** - David appeals to Saul to resolve all of this. **26:19-20**

What David does here is brilliant. He backs Saul into a corner where he must face his own guilt. David makes three appeals to Saul and all three are coming from an honest, godly man:

**(Appeal #1)** - David said if God has in fact stirred Saul against David, then let David offer a propitiatory sacrifice to make it right. **26:19a**

David believed in the sovereignty of God, even over a nutcase like Saul. So he said let me make the proper sacrifice and get this resolved.

I actually followed this tactic in Pocatello. People were saying if you only knew so I said well tell me what I need to know and I will get down and confess it to God in front of you and ask for your forgiveness. Of course there was nothing.

**(Appeal #2)** - David said if other men have stirred Saul up against David, then they need to be judged and held accountable because they are forcing David away from true worship. **26:19**

David could not corporately worship God with the people of God. There were no places to worship corporately outside of Israel so David had to spend his life with idolaters.

We have people who do not understand the value of corporate worship and now that the Corona virus has hit, they just sit home and don't think a thing about missing corporate worship. This really bothered David, who was a man after God's own heart.

**(Appeal #3)** - David requests that Saul let him live. **26:20**

David said you have been chasing me all over the mountains like you are chasing a partridge. No hunter goes all over the mountains to find a flea or partridge. When you go into the mountains, you go after big game. David says Saul don't spill my blood out here in the mountains away from the presence of God.

**INTERACTION #5** – Saul has some emotional repentance. **26:21, 25**

When you first read **verse 21**, it is like reading a great spiritual revival. It initially appears to be real repentance; the real deal. But this is why I do not put any stock in emotional responses. I don't put any stock in walking aisles or raising hands. Emotional responses may or may not be real.

There are seven responses Saul has to David's appeals:

**Response #1** - Saul admits he has sinned. **26:21a**

**Response #2** - Saul invites David to return home. **26:21b**

**Response #3** - Saul says he will not harm David. **26:21c**

**Response #4** - Saul admits that David spared his life. **26:21d**

**Response #5** - Saul admits he has been a fool. **26:21e**

**Response #6** - Saul admits David is blessed by God. **26:25a**

**Response #7** - Saul admits God's hand is on David. **26:25b**

When you read this, you say this is fantastic. You think Praise God. What an impact David made. **David did not buy this for one minute.**

Listen, when a known liar and fraud says they are finally right with God, time will tell you whether or not it is true and real. Emotional reactions to the immediate emotional settings mean nothing.

I have known of people who have walked aisles multiple times in multiple churches. The minister is praising God because the people are seeing something he thinks he has accomplished by his verbal communication. That same person is right back in the same rut in just a few days.

**INTERACTION #6** – David responds to Saul. **26:22-27:1**

David was a wise man. There were four responses David had to Saul's apparent repentance:

**Response #1** - David asks some young man to come and get Saul's spear. **26:22**

David didn't take it back himself because he does not trust Saul. David said send some young man here to get the spear. Now a young man would not dare raise a hand against David, knowing David had killed Goliath and hundreds of Philistines.

**Response #2** - David says that God will repay each person for real righteousness. **26:23**

David says, well God knows who is really righteous and really faithful and He will reward those who are. David could have killed Saul and didn't do it and God knew it. God also knew the heart of Saul, so David says we will let God determine who is truly righteous and who is a fraud.

**Response #3** - David asks God to highly value his life as he did Saul's life. **26:24**

David had valued Saul's life and he doesn't really need Saul to value his life as long as God does.

**Response #4** - David knew that Saul was a phony who wanted him dead. **27:1**

Saul could talk about sin and cry over sin and say he was sorry and say it was all good now, but it meant nothing to David. Saul was a phony liar and David knew it.

**PARTING THOUGHTS:**

- 1. There is a recurring consistency to the phoniness of one not right with God. There will always be the same pattern and nothing will ever change. To be real, you must make a clean and total break or there will be no break in the character.**
- 2. There will always be nothing but relapses in phony repentance. In the end, the emotions will fade and the true character will be revealed. Saul will eventually consult a witch.**
- 3. The person who appears to repent may not really repent and the one who proclaims they are right with God may not truly be right with God.**