- I. Introduction: Why would David go through similar situations so close together?
- **II.** David again resists the temptation to revenge. 26:1-25
 - A. The chase resumes. v. 1-4
 - 1. The Ziphites again betray David to Saul. v. 1 23:19
 - 2. Saul, after all his kind words, is again eager to kill David. v. 2 24:16-20
 - 3. Again David is outnumbered, but he has good intelligence (spies). v. 3-4
 - B. David again has the opportunity to kill Saul. v. 5-8
 - 1. This time David becomes the pursuer. v. 5
 - 2. David boldly goes down into Saul's camp. v. 6-7 <u>II Sam. 23:18-19</u> 19:21f
 - 3. Why did David's audacious plan work? v. 12 Gen. 2:21 15:12 Isa. 29:10
 - 4. The LORD again delivers Saul into David's hand. v. 8a 24:4
 - 5. Abishai is more than willing to kill Saul. v. 8b
 - 6. Why might it have been even more tempting for David to kill Saul this time?
 - C. Again David refuses to allow Saul to be harmed. v. 9-12
 - 1. He respects the fact that Saul is the LORD's anointed. v. 9,11a 24:6 II Sa. 1:14
 - 2. He expresses faith that the LORD will bring vengeance upon Saul, one way or another. v. 10 25:29b,26b,39 31:1ff Heb. 9:27
 - 3. David will not seize the throne with violence, but waits on the LORD.
 - 4. David takes Saul's spear and jug. v. 11b-12
 - 5. Again Saul is rendered helpless by the LORD. v. 12 19:22-24
 - D. David accuses Abner of gross dereliction of duty. v. 13-16
 - 1. David calls out from a (safe) distance. v. 13
 - 2. "Abner, you deserve to die for sleeping on the job." v. 14-16
 - 3. "I did your job and protected the king tonight."
 - E. David remonstrates with Saul. v. 17-20
 - 1. "You are pursuing me for no reason." v. 17-18
 - 2. "If I am guilty then I will appease the LORD with an offering." v. 19a
 - 3. "If evil men have falsely accused me, thus driving me away from the holy land, may the LORD curse them." v. 19b-20a 24:10 21:10ff 27:1ff Ps. 84:1-2 27:4
 - 4. "I am no threat to you." v. 20b 24:14
 - 5. Could David only worship the LORD in the holy land?
 - 6. Do you, like David, appreciate the privilege of your access to God and your fellowship with His people? <u>Ps. 84:1-2</u> John 4:21ff Heb. 13:17 4:14ff
 - F. Saul again claims to have a change of heart. v. 21,25
 - 1. Saul confesses that he has been sinful and foolish. v. 21ac 13:13 15:24 25:25
 - 2. Saul promises to do David no harm and invites him to return. v. 21b
 - 3. Saul again declares that David will prevail. v. 25 25:20
 - G. David trusts in the LORD (not Saul). v. 22-24
 - 1. He returns Saul's spear. v. 22
 - 2. He trusts the LORD to reward him for his righteousness and faithfulness, and to punish Saul for his wickedness. v. 23-24 Ps. 72:14 119:138 143:1 89:14
 - 3. David does not choose to return with Saul. Why? v. 25b 27:1ff
 - 4. They never see each other again.

III. Application.

- A. How does God lead us? v. 8a
 - 1. Opportunities (open doors) are not necessarily indicative of the LORD's leading.
 - 2. Nor can we lean on our feelings. v. 8b Pr. 14:12 3:5-6 Jer. 17:9
 - 3. We know God's leading through His Word. II Tim. 3:16-17
 - 4. We may not always know what God is doing, but we have sure guidance as to our duty. v. 10 Deut. 29:29
- B. The fear of the LORD keeps you from sin. v. 9,11 Gen. 39:9 Pr. 1:7 Dt. 10:12
 - 1. David feared God more than men. Pr. 29:25
 - 2. Like David, we respect those whom God has put in authority, even when they are foolish. v. 9,11,21 I Pe. 2:17ff Eph. 5:22ff 6:1ff Heb. 13:17 Ro. 13:1ff
 - **3.** Just as David refuses to take shortcuts, we resist the temptation when sin seems to offer an attractive way to solve a problem.
 - 4. Like David, we show love to our enemies. v. 21 Ro. 12:21 Mt. 5:38-48
 - 5. Our lives reflect the LORD's righteousness and faithfulness. 26:23 I Jo. 2:29 3:7
- C. God alone can be fully trusted. Jer. 17:7-8 Ps. 37:5ff
 - 1. Some people, like Saul, can't be trusted. v. 25b Ps. 146:3 Jer. 17:5-6
 - 2. Like David, we can trust God to judge the wicked and vindicate the righteous. II Sam. 4:9 Ps. 7:8ff 18:20 37:13 54:7 73:1ff Ro. 12:17-21 Heb. 10:30 I Pe. 3:9
- D. Are you double-minded, like Saul? Ps. 119:113 Js. 1:8 4:8 Ro. 1:32 II Co. 7:10-11
 - 1. Unbelievers can respect the testimony of genuine believers. v. 21,25
 - 2. Unbelievers can feel pangs of conscience and experience sorrow over their sin without truly repenting. Ro. 1:32 II Co. 7:10-11
 - 3. You need, not merely to turn over a new leaf, but to be born again.
- IV. How does this passage point to Christ?
 - A. Jesus resisted the temptation to grasp the crown prematurely (before the cross). v. 9-10 Ps. 2:8-9 Mt. 4:8-9 Mark 8:31ff
 - B. Jesus refused to take revenge on His enemies. I Pe. 2:21ff Luke 9:51-55
 - C. Jesus is perfectly righteous and faithful. v. 23 Isa. 11:5 Acts 3:14 II Pe. 1:1 I Jo. 2:1
 1. David's righteousness and faithfulness ultimately fails. III Sam. 11-12
 - 2. Jesus' righteousness and faithfulness never fails. Heb. 3:2ff
 - D. Jesus has gained the reward for His righteousness -- salvation for all who are in Him. v. 23 Ps. 85:10-13 I Pe. 3:18 Ro. 3:26 1:17 Heb. 2:17
 - E. One day all, even Jesus' enemies, will acknowledge His Lordship. v. 21,25 Phil. 2:9-11

Discussion questions

- 1. Why would the Bible record two incidents which are so similar (I Sam. 24 and 26)?
- 2. Why might David have been even more tempted this time to kill Saul?
- 3. Why doesn't David allow Abishai to harm Saul? What keeps you from sinning?
- 4. What was the hardest for David about being wandering fugitive?
- 5. What does this passage teach about how God does and does not lead us?
- 6. How righteous and faithful was David? v. 23
- 7. How do we explain Saul's pattern of going back and forth between trying to kill David and being remorseful?
- 8. When does the point come when we can end a relationship because the other person has broken trust? v. 25b
- 9. In which trying situations are you currently being forced to trust in the LORD?
- 10. How does our text point to Jesus?