



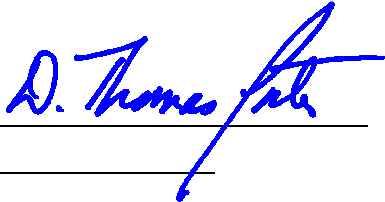
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LESSON NOTES (EXPLORE THE BIBLE)

GOD HAS HEARD—ALLOWING THE LORD GOD BE THE LORD GOD
 (1 Samuel 26) Lord's Day, August 21, 2016

OVERVIEW



"Session 12" for this week in the *Explore the Bible Series*

The Lord Jesus the Christ died to redeem the souls of women. When we look, really look, at how we view women, however, we see we think of them as second class humans (e.g., "...of the men who wrote the Bible..."), or as humans welded to a bronze pedestal (e.g., the virtual worship of women on the second Sunday of May).

A QUESTION TO GET YOU THINKING:
 WHY WAS SAUL FINALLY READY TO ACCEPT DAVID'S ASCENDANCY?

The Lord God Jehovah has a different view. In direct ways, He inspired the writer of Proverbs 31:10ff to proclaim the worth of a virtuous woman. In direct ways, He inspired Deborah (Judges 5), Hannah (1 Samuel 2) and Mary (Luke 1:48ff) to write some of the most beautiful Scripture ever written.

In indirect ways, He demonstrated their testimony was just as valid as any man's (cf., Luke 24), and their wisdom was superior to the king to be, David. And so it was with Abigail. It was Abigail who prevented David from killing her fool of a husband. It was Abigail who taught vengeance is bloodthirsty, and prevented the king to be from sinning against the Lord God Jehovah. So, when David had one final opportunity to kill his nemesis, Saul, David was refreshed and renewed by the Spirit of the Lord God. Abigail had taught him well. Not Jonathan. Not Samuel. Not Abishai. Surely, her wise, Godly advice was still swirling in his head when holding that spear and water flagon—



Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live. Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God.

Abigail—clearly a Proverbs 31:26 woman.

With Samuel now dead and buried in his home town of Ramah, David retreated to a desert called Maon [or Paran]. There was this knucklehead there, Nabal, very wealthy and very selfish. On top of all that he was mean as a viper snake. The only good thing going for him was his intelligent and beautiful wife, Abigail. So when David was in the desert, he googled sheep shearing and found that Nabal had a bunch in Carmel. So he sent 10 dudes to check it out.

They greeted Nabal as instructed—*Long life to you! Good health to you and your whole clan! Good health to all that's yours. We see it's sheep-shearing time—we surely could use your help.*

Nabal was not impressed—*just who is this “David,” this “son of Jesse?” I hear he's got a lot of riff-raff following him—slaves leaving their masters, for example. Why should I feed you when my shearers need food? For some dudes from who knows where?*

Uh oh. When they reported Nabal's disrespect, David was not amused. Get your weapons ready boys! We're going to teach him some manners. Four hundred went; two hundred stayed behind the lines to protect their supplies.

Abigail heard about the whole mess. Knowing her husband was about to get his, she took a bunch of bread—two hundred loaves—and a bunch of wine, the dressed carcasses of 500 sheep, 5 bushels of grain, already roasted and ready to made into more bread. Dessert was also coming to the desert—pressed figs, raisin cakes. Abigail instructed her servants to send the stuff on to David; she planned to follow them, but she did not tell her knucklehead husband, Nabal.

As the Lord God Jehovah would have it, she met David and the boys descending toward her. In fact, David had just finished kvetching—*It's been useless, all my protection details have been ignored, Nabal's property was protected, and yet he pays me back with evil! May God deal with me severely if I even leave one male of Nabal's progeny alive!*

Abigail, unaware of David's wrath, got off her mount and hit the ground, bowing before David. *Let me take the blame, sire. Please let your servant speak. May you sire pay no attention to that wicked man, Nabal. He's been named well—his name is indeed Fool, and folly follows. The Lord God Yahweh has kept you, my master, from unnecessary killing and useless revenge. As sure as Yahweh lives, He will make a lasting dynasty of your progeny. You fight Yahweh's battles—don't let wrongdoing be found in your war record.*

David was impressed—*Praise to the Lord God Almighty Yahweh of Israel: He has sent you to meet me today! May you be blessed for your good wisdom, and keeping me from bloodshed, and avenging myself. It's a good thing you came, for not one of the Fool's boys would be alive tomorrow evening.*

David accepted her gifts and told her to go in peace.

Upon returning home, Nabal was found by Abigail to be party-hardy. Drunk and in high spirits, she decided Nabal could learn in the morning what had happened on the road to Maon. With the morning came Abigail's news—it was not good news for the Fool, for he had a heart attack and the Lord God Jehovah killed him about 10 days later.

David heard, and sent for Abigail, inviting her to become one of his wives. She accepted humbly, took five maids with her back to David's camp and became his wife. Incidentally, Abigail was not alone—she shared David's bed with Ahinoam from Jezreel. David's wife, Michal, had been stolen away by her father; Saul had given her to another dude, Paltiel from Gallim.

Proverbs 31 had not been written yet.

1 Samuel 26:1-12 *Saul sleeps, David relents.* When Saul was at his home town Gibeah, the Ziphites hinted that David might be hiding on a hill called Hakilah which faces the town Jeshimon.

Saul led his 3K select men to there to search for David. Saul camped beside the road facing the hill of Hakilah, facing Jeshimon. He had no idea how close he was, for David stayed in the desert. Realizing Saul had followed him there, David sent out scouts to verify Saul's presence.

Yep. Saul was there. David couldn't resist—there was Saul, & Abner *asleep!* Saul was in the center of the three thousand. David asked a couple of guys to go with him to Saul's camp. Only his nephew Abishai agreed.

By night they sneaked within their ranks, right up to Saul himself. Saul's spear was stuck right there in the ground next to him.

Abishai clucked—*Today God has put your enemy in your grasp. Let me take this spear and pin him to the ground on which he sleeps. I won't need to stab him more than once!*

David was aghast—*Halt! Who can lay a hand to the king who the Lord God Yahweh Himself has anointed? As surely as the Lord God Almighty lives, Yahweh Himself will take care of Saul. His time will come, or he will die in battle. But the Lord God Jehovah forbids that I should lay a hand on His anointed one. Get the spear, and his water jug, and let's get the heck out of here!*

David took the spear and water jug from near Saul's head and left. Believe or not, no one heard, saw, or sensed their incursion. It was the Lord God Yahweh who had put them in a deep sleep.

Q Does this beat any episode of NCIS or what?

Q What was wrong in the head with Abishai to take on such a dangerous assignment?

Q How were Abishai & David able to take Saul's spear and water jug without being detected?

Q When has the Lord God put others to sleep so *you* could do His bidding without immediate repercussions?

1 SAMUEL 26:1-12

The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, "Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?"

²So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search there for David. ³Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the desert. When he saw that Saul had followed him there, ⁴he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived.

⁵Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him.

⁶David then asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?" "I'll go with you," said Abishai.

⁷So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.

⁸Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won't strike him twice."

⁹But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD's anointed and be guiltless? ¹⁰As surely as the LORD lives," he said, "the LORD himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. ¹¹But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."

¹²So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep.

1 Samuel 26:13-25. David teaches, Saul learns, shalom. David gets to the other side of the valley and stands on the top of the hill, with a wide distance between him and his nemesis. He calls out the the three thousand men, and to Abner the general in particular...

Are you listening Abner? Are you going to answer me?

Abner retorts:

Who are you to be calling on the king?

David wasn't impressed:

You're a man aren't you? Aren't you supposed to be guarding the king? Someone came to kill him, destroy him, your lord, your king. You've failed, miserably; you and your men deserve to die. As surely as the Lord God Jehovah lives, you deserve to die for not protecting God's anointed one.

David continued the jabbing...

Where's your king's spear & water jug?

At this point Saul recognized David's voice. *Is that you David, my son?*

David was struck by the king's appellation:

Yes, it is I, oh king, my lord. Why is my lord hunting me like an animal? What have I done to justify your anger? Of what am I guilty? Please listen to me oh king! If the Lord God Almighty has inflamed you against me, then may He accept an offering? On the other hand, however, if men have inflamed you against me, then may they be cursed before the Lord God Yahweh Himself! They've driven me away from my share in the share in the Lord God Yahweh's inheritance. These men have essentially said "Serve, go, serve other gods." Oh, do not let my blood be shed so far from the presence of the Lord

1 SAMUEL 26:13-25

Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them. ¹⁴He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, "Aren't you going to answer me, Abner?"

Abner replied, "Who are you who calls to the king?"

¹⁵David said, "You're a man, aren't you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn't you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king. ¹⁶What you have done is not good. As surely as the LORD lives, you and your men deserve to die, because you did not guard your master, the LORD's anointed. Look around you. Where are the king's spear and water jug that were near his head?"

¹⁷Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is that your voice, David my son?"

David replied, "Yes it is, my lord the king." ¹⁸And he added, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of? ¹⁹Now let my lord the king listen to his servant's words. If the LORD has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, men have done it, may they be cursed before the LORD! They have now driven me from my share in the LORD's inheritance and have said, 'Go, serve other gods.' ²⁰Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the LORD. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea--as one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

²¹Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have erred greatly."

²²"Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it. ²³The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness. The LORD delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the LORD's anointed. ²⁴As surely as I valued your life today, so may the LORD value my life and deliver me from all trouble."

²⁵Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David; you will do great things and surely triumph."

So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

God Jehovah. The King of Israel has come out like to look for a flea, just as one hunts a partridge in the hills.

Saul was touched—

I have sinned. Oh come back, David, my son. Since you have considered my life precious today, I will try never to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a nabal and have erred greatly.

David answered...

Here's the king's spear, let one of your younger soldiers come & retrieve it. Yahweh rewards every man for his righteous faithfulness. Yes, the Lord God Almighty delivered you into my hands, but I could not kill the Lord God's anointed king. As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord God Almighty value my life and deliver me from all trouble.

Saul was more than impressed—*May you be blessed, my son David; you will do great things and truly succeed in triumph.*

David went on his way, and Saul went home. The Lord God rocks!

Q How would outline David's request for shalom between he and Saul?

Q What were his weakest points? Strongest points? What does it mean to "be cursed...?"

Q Why was Saul so impressed with David's call for shalom?

Q What appellation did Saul use regarding David? Rhetorical flourish, or change of heart, or both?

Q To what extent should David have confidence in Saul's pronouncement of shalom between he and Saul? What doubts might David have? Support for faith in Saul's declaration?

ADVANCED BIBLE COMMENTARY FOR 1 SAMUEL 26¹

26:1 *Ziphites.* People who lived in an area south of Hebron. *Gibeah.* Saul's residence (see 10:26).

26:5 *lain down.* David arrived at Saul's camp during the night when the men were sleeping. *Abner,* the army general and Saul's cousin (see 14:50).

26:6 *Ahimelech the Hittite.* Not referred to elsewhere. Hittites had long resided in Canaan (see Ge 10:15; see also Ge 15:20; 23:3-20; Dt 7:1; 20:17). Another Hittite in David's service was Uriah (see 2Sa 11:3; 23:39).

Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother. Zeruiah was an older sister of David (1Ch 2:16), so Abishai and Joab (and their brother Asahel, 2Sa 2:18) were David's nephews as well as trusted military leaders. Joab would long serve as the commander of his army.

¹Adapted, corrected, and revised by D. Thomas Porter from Compton's Interactive NIV © 1996.

26:12 *David took the spear and water jug.* In this way he sought to prove again to Saul that he did not seek his life.

26:19 *may he accept an offering.* David knows no reason why God should be angry with him; but if for some reason God is behind Saul's determined effort to kill him, David appeals for God to accept an offering of appeasement (cf. 16:5)—in any event, to let the matter be settled between David and God, without Saul's involvement.

may they be cursed before the LORD! David commits any such men to the judgment of God.

the LORD's inheritance. David appeals to Saul's conscience by describing his present exclusion from the fellowship of God's people and from living at peace in the Lord's land.

Go, serve other gods. In their view, to be expelled from the Lord's land was to be separated from the Lord's sanctuary (a form of excommunication in the Hebrew Scriptures) and left to serve the gods of whatever land one may settle in (see Jos 22:24-27).

26:20 *look for a flea.* See 24:14. David suggests that Saul is demeaning himself and his nobility as king in his fanatical pursuit of an innocent and undesigning man.

26:21 *I have sinned.* See 24:17. *I have acted like a fool* (Hebrew is *nabal*). Saul confesses his behavior has been not only unwise but also ungodly (see 13:13; 25:2-44).

26:25 *you will . . . triumph.* Saul makes a not so thinly veiled reference to his own conviction that David will replace him as king (see 24:20).