

Character Study: David

Part 2 – Conflict with King Saul

I Samuel 18-27

What's happening?

- David's popularity among the Israelites was not well received by King Saul. Saul grew so jealous of David that he tried to kill him on multiple occasions. (18:10-11, 17-30; 19:1, 9-10)
- David had become great friends with Jonathan, a friendship that God used to protect David from Saul. (18:1-4)
- Fearing his life, David fled from Saul. Saul and his men went searching for him. They came upon a cave in which they entered to take a break. Unknown to Saul, David was hiding in that very cave. David snuck up behind Saul and cut off a piece of his robe. After Saul left the cave, David came out and showed Saul that he could have killed him. Saul said, "you are more righteous than me" and then understood that God was going to make David the next king. Saul then returned home. (24:1-22)
- Before long, Saul decided to search for David again. Saul and his men were camping out one night when David snuck into his camp and took his spear and water jug. The next day David showed Saul he could have killed him again. Saul responded by blessing him and acknowledging David's future would be bright. (26:1-25)
- David knew that he had probably not seen the last of Saul. He decided that the best solution would be to keep away from him, so David went and lived among the Philistines. (27:1-12)

What's God doing?

> God had selected David to be the next king, but only in His timing would He place David in that position. In the meantime, God was refining David's character and molding him into a leader full of patience, good judgment and an absolute trust in God.

What's to learn?

→ If you were in David's shoes (being wrongly treated, running for your life, and knowing people were out to kill you), how would you have reacted in those moments when David could have gotten even with Saul for the heartache he had caused? Notice how David left the judgment in God's hands! Are you a person who likes to retaliate and fight back or are you willing to be like David and leave such things to the Lord?