

welcome!

Thank you for joining us as we look at unpacking Gods Word.

Please take a moment to read our focus scripture:
1 Samuel 23:3-5

This week we will look at the first two verses, focusing on Davids response to Gods people.

1 Samuel 23:3-5 - "But David's men said to him, "Here in Judah we are afraid. How much more, then, if we go to Keilah against the Philistine forces! Once again David inquired of the Lord, and the Lord answered him, "Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand." So David and his men went to Keilah, fought the Philistines and carried off their livestock. He inflicted heavy losses on the Philistines and saved the people of Keilah."

Life is full of decision making scenarios. Too often, we make these decisions in haste. We are quick to speak, and slower to think, and even slower to pray through them.

Unfortunately, wrong decisions lead to dangerous distractions. However, right decisions lead us forward in the right direction.

What is the measuring stick that you use when making decisions? What is your default setting, your go to guide, when indecision makes its inquiry? What are your investigation methods when searching for resolution?

What decision have you made during lockdown - something that you've started or stopped - that has been a defining moment for you in the last ten weeks?

Let us study three things that stand out on this part of scripture:

- David was obedient to the Lord.
- David searched the Lord for answers and was led by his friendship with God and not the fears of man.
- David had faith in the Lords promises.

John 15:14 - "You are my friends if you do what I command."

Obedience to the commands of Christ is our sign of love towards Him. If we love Him, we will obey Him. We are known by our obedience. Obedience is one of the marks of a Christ follower. However, sometimes we ransom the righteous decisions for the reasonable ones because they're easy and effortless.

Have you ever felt the nudge of God to go in a certain direction? Do you follow the instructions of the Lord? Or do you pursue the approval of friends? There is wisdom in seeking Godly counsel. Proverbs reminds us of this regularly.

- Proverbs 11:14 - "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers."
- Proverbs 12:15 - "The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice."
- Proverbs 19:20 - "Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise."

There is good guidance to be found in the advice of godly governance. Do you seek godly governance or just guided googled advice? Oftentimes, we look for someone to meddle in our matters as opposed to mentor us through our dilemmas. There is a big difference between a meddler and a mentor.

- A meddler points you towards google but a mentor points you towards Gods Word.
- A meddler supports you despite wrong thinking but a mentor summons you to search scripture.
- A meddler agrees with everything you say but a mentor asks the necessary questions and urges you to inquire of the Lord.

When faced with difficult decisions or situations - it's wise to run to someone whos wisdom is found in the Word of God and not the words of man. Often as women, we like the comforts of coffee dates and chitchats. We talk without taking stock of our words. We gawk, gossip and gab with little consideration about the words we use. These very words have the power to protect us or perplex us; they have the power to direct us or distract us. So let's choose to use them wisely! From whom are you seeking advice? Do you run towards the comfort found in friends? Or do you run towards to correction found in Gods Word?

Keilah was a town of Judah. The citizens of Keilah had just harvested and threshed all their grain and then the Philistines had stolen it from them. So the citizens ran and told David what was happening. A few interesting things to take note of here:

- David was in hiding on the run from king Saul. Saul wanted to kill David because of his jealousy towards him. David was not king, yet these people took their troubles to David and not king Saul.
- King Saul was an unfaithful and unrighteous man and the citizens of Keilah recognised this. So, instead they ran to David; a faithful and righteous man of God.
- God loved His people too much to see them serve at the mercy of a wicked man. So instead, the Lord gave His people a man after His own heart, David.

Acts 13:22 - "After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'"

Can the same things be said of you? Will God find you faithful? Are you living a life of obedience? How have you chosen to live your life? Are the decisions you have made for your life God honouring? David had every reason, by very logical explanations, to say NO to the men that asked him to help them in verse 1 of 1 Samuel 23. Here's why:

- David wasn't king. Therefore, he had no obligation to help them.
- David had enough worries of his own to be burdened with someone else's worries.
- David was on the run from Saul and if he came out of hiding he would have exposed himself. Therefore, his life was at risk.

David had an 'army' full of men with less than stellar resumes and bad credit records. (1 Samuel 22:1-2) David could have also said "YES, I can fix this problem" to the men who asked him to save them. But then he would have operated in his own strength.

However, David inquired of the Lord!

Do you inquire of the Lord when you have decisions to make? Make a list of the decisions you have had to make recently. Have they been God honouring decisions?

From a shepherd boy to a shepherd king, from tending sheep to leading people, from the pastureland to a royal kingdom. Gods plans for our lives are always greater than the plans that we construct for ourselves. He takes the ordinary and turns it into the extraordinary. However, it will require our godly discernment through prayer and our response of obedience.

What is your default setting when making decisions? Do you run to friends, family, google, self-help books? Or do you run to the Lord? Do you inquire of the Lord when you're feeling overwhelmed and under pressure, uncertain and undecided?

Three things stand out about Davids character:

1. David loved God.
2. David loved Gods people.
3. David was a man after Gods own heart.

1 Samuel 13:14 - "The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people."

Davids response shows us that he was a man of wisdom and godliness. He responded to life's circumstances through the lens of godly discernment. Can the same be said of your character? If not, why not?

Isaiah 30:21

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

What will you do differently from now on? What is God teaching you through this story? How will you tackle the rocky terrain of indecision?

Journal Your Thoughts

Points to Remember:

David had already been chosen and anointed by Samuel as Israel's next king. (1 Samuel 16:12b)

David was recognised as a greater leader than Saul. This made Saul furious. Saul's jealousy led to his desire to have David killed. (1 Samuel 18:1-19)

David was on the run from Saul. (1 Samuel 19)

David was hiding in a cave as he feared for his life.

God rejected Saul as king because he was an unfaithful and unrighteous man, full of pride and jealousy. God chose David as king of Israel.

David was recognised as a man after God's own heart. David's obedience led him to victory. (Part 2 to follow)

*Write. Read.
Remember. Pray!*