

I Samuel 26-31

“David in Exile – part two”

Introduction

- Tonight we continue in our study of I Samuel
 - And the content of I Samuel can be remembered by the fact that the book is really about 3 people, 3 main characters

The Book of I Samuel

Samuel – I Samuel 1-7

King Saul – I Samuel 8-15

David – I Samuel 16-31

- We have seen Samuel in his upbringing, Godly parents, but a really horrible culture and yet he was a light
- We have met King Saul who started out really great, but after about 2 years, the next 38 years of his kingship are a disaster
- And then for the last couple of weeks we have been looking at David
 - Who God raised up from the sheepfold
 - To fight Goliath and serve in Saul's army
 - To eventually be banished and spend 10 years, all of his 20's, running around in the wilderness from King Saul
- Samuel, Saul and David

Tonight we will see all three of them again for the last time, as only David's story continues in II Samuel

- all 3 of them together again – now some of you are rightfully thinking isn't Samuel already dead – yes but stay tuned, the reunion tour is on tonight – we have some good stuff ahead

Last week we began to look at David's 10 year exile

- and we covered the first 8 ½ years
 - in chapters 21-25, as we were learning about David lying to the priests to get bread and some weapons, thinking everyone would be okay – but that Doeg told Saul and Saul had all the priests killed – David lied and people died – sounds like a political slogan I have heard before
- then he flees to Gath where he thinks he will be safe
 - not even considering that was the city Goliath was from and he was carrying his sword
 - also not considering that everyone in Gath would know Him because the people were singing the song – Saul had slain his thousands but David his tens of thousands – 10 thousands of who? – Philistines
- So David pretends to be insane and escapes to the Cave of Adullam where 400 men who are indebt and depress come to hang out with David
 - Then the city of Keilah is invaded by the Philistines and Saul is not available to save them, because he is looking for David, so David saves the city and he is rewarded by the city betraying him
- Saul pursues David to En Gedi, but decides to take a nap or use the restroom in a cave David and his men were in
 - The men try to get David to kill Saul, but he will not touch the Lord's anointed
- Finally David has to deal with Nabal, this fool who will not share his vast wealth with people in need, but God kills Nabal and David marries Abigail, Nabal's wise, godly and beautiful wife
 - All of that took 8 and ½ years

As chapter 26 opens we are 18 months, a year and a half away from the death of Saul and the beginning of the reign of King David

- but David doesn't know that

- and so the trials continue for David as God is shaping him and molding him and making Him into the great King he will soon be
- And as we look at these chapters tonight we are going to note 5 events that take place in this last year and half, all starting with the letter D to help you note takers

5 Events at the end of Exile – I Samuel 26-31

#1 - Deciding to spare Saul in Ziph – Chapter 26

#2 - Deception in Gath – Chapter 27 & 29

#3 - Dumb decision by Saul at En Dor – Chapter 28

#4 - Distress at Ziklag – Chapter 30

#5 - Death of Saul on Mount Gilboa – Chapter 31

- and we will look at these one at a time

5 Events at the end of Exile – I Samuel 26-31

#1 - Deciding to spare Saul in Ziph – Chapter 26

- read verses 1-21

Saul isn't being King, dealing the Philistines, doing anything he should have been doing – he is out hunting David

- and he has chased him to the wilderness of Ziph
 - you can see Ziph on the back of your study guide right West of En Gedi, right about in the middle of your map

And as Saul is camped, 3,000 men are camped in a circle around him with Abner his top general at his side

- but David decides to sneak into the camp and one of his generals, Abishia goes with him
 - God puts a deep sleep on the entire Israeli army and it looks once again like God has delivered Saul right into David's hands

David's man Abishia says, let me kill him, I know you won't but let me, I wouldn't have to try twice

- and this must have been such a temptation for David, 8 and half years is a long time to wait for a promise, but David does not do it
 - He grabs Saul's water jug, and his spear – oh Saul's precious spear, and they hike back out of the camp
- Once they were a ways off – David calls out to Abner, and I love it, he gives Abner a hard time
 - What kind of body guard are you Abner, not a very good one
 - And David is being a little flippant, but let's remember he is 28
 - You don't really get smart until you are at least 30, sorry those of you in your 20's but I was just there and I remember – you grow up a lot in the next decade

So David is taunting Abner, but Saul knows David's voice

- Is that you my son? – oh stop it with the “my son business”
 - But Saul here, you see a little glimpse of the man he could have been
 - He seems to finally get it that David twice could have killed him and he knows he would have done David in if the tables were turned
- So Saul declares that David will be King
 - And then Saul makes an eight word summary of his life and it is so sad, verse 21

“I have played the fool and erred exceedingly”

- Saul started with so much potential, but he let his jealousy and insecurity get the better of him and he basically wasted 38 years of his life

Instead of making inroads against the Philistines, and setting up the nation of Israel for years to come, Saul wasted 38 years chasing something that was never a real issue

- And I just point that out because you don't have to be King Saul to struggle like that
 - We can let our pride, our bitterness over a hurt done to us, and deep seeded general bondage, steal years of our lives

- When we could have been making inroads against the enemy, setting the tone for our children and our children's children
 - Instead – we can play the fool and waste precious time

But of course friends, the heart of the Lord if you find yourself in that boat tonight is – where are you going to go from here?

- are you going to be sad, but keep walking the same road?
 - Or are you going to repent and go in a completely different direction from this day forward?
 - Don't let the enemy get you to think the choice you have tonight – doesn't matter – oh I have already wasted too much time – nope – where will you go from here?

Saul tells David I am done chasing you

- And Saul and his men left
 - Wow – this is what he had been hoping for, for 8 ½ years
- what a victory, how amazing
 - you think David would have been on the top of the world
 - but that is not what happens
 - let's consider chapter 27....

5 Events at the end of Exile – I Samuel 26-31

#1 - Deciding to spare Saul in Ziph – Chapter 26

#2 - Deception in Gath – Chapter 27 & 29

- read chapter 27 (Gezerites who were a tribe of old people)

Again we are less than a year and half until David's greatest length of trial is over

- and yet David doesn't know this and he despairs
 - Sometimes right before God breaks through the enemy will step up the attack to get us to give up and pack it in
 - And we see David doing basically that in chapter 27
 - And we see why in verse one

David said in his heart

- instead of talking things over with the Lord, instead of going to His Word for encouragement – David is talking to Himself
 - and I don't know about you but there is no end to the foolishness I can come up with if I am only talking to myself
 - doesn't anybody else know what I mean?
- Someone says something to you, or does to you and I start talking to myself – why did He say that? Why did he do that – what did he really mean? – Don't pretend like some of you don't do that – I know from the emails you send me – there is no other way to come up with some things you guys come up with than to do exactly that
 - We talk to ourselves about what someone said or did and we invent this entire scenario where we ascribe motives, reasons, and outcomes – all in our head
- Friends – this is always a bad idea – don't talk to yourself – talk to the Lord not yourself

David is talking to Himself and he ends up in Gath, now some wonder, isn't that the city he had to flee years before – yes

- but understand this time he comes with 600 men, their wives, their kids – this is not one man, but a small army
 - but this is really a low moment for David
 - He is living with the enemy
- Then he starts lying about what he and his men are doing
 - He is telling Achish he is making raids on the Jewish people when in reality he is killing the allies of the Philistines

You know we get the sense that lying is one of the struggles David had

- He had Jonathan lie to his dad when David wanted to be absent from the feast
 - He had Michal lie to her dad

- David lied to the priests, here he is lying to Achish
 - No wonder in Psalm 120, the cry of David's heart is "Lord remove from me lying lips"

He is living with the enemy, lying and killing

- this is really a low moment for David
 - and yet we still see the Lord being faithful to Him
 - and this ministers to me so greatly

Most of us are really hard on ourselves – our own sin really surprises us – I can't believe I did that

- we are really bummed by other peoples sin – oh can you image he did that and we speak in hushed tones
 - and I just lately don't really feel like we have the Lord's heart on this

The reality is there is only one God

- the best of men are men at best
 - and we need to get this into our heart

You see I believe if we could get this into our heart, that the best of men are men at best

- well then there would be a lot less people walking out on churches, oh I just can't believe that pastor would have an attitude
 - like pastor fly or something – I am not superhero
 - Rob doesn't have a cape in his office
- We get tired – just like you, we have off days – just like you
 - Get this – we sin – just like you
- And I'm not trying to make excuses, we should repent and say we are sorry just like you too
 - But when we think – oh that man, he is something special, he is so like Jesus – oh that pedestal always gets knocked down

We need this in churches, we need this in marriages as well

- that person you are married to who is such a great man, he is man at best and that special lady – well she is not Jesus either
 - and when I realize that – what God sees – that we are but dust
 - then I start taking myself and others a little less serious
 - I start worshipping and counting on the right one – Jesus, who will never let me down

- You only have one Jesus – be graceful to everyone else, because I really believe God is

Now don't misunderstand me – that is not to say that our sin will not have consequences or that God somehow doesn't care about our sin

- He cares a great deal about your sin – it breaks His heart
 - But it doesn't surprise Him and He still loves you

Sin still has consequences – you will pay the price for sin – always... even when we think – OH I got away with it, I am so clever...

I read a news article about a man in North Carolina who was a lawyer. He bought a very expensive box of 24 cigars, and then insured them against fire. Within a month of having smoked this stockpile of very expensive cigars he filed a claim with his insurance company, stating that "the cigars were lost in a series of small fires." The insurance company refused to pay stating the obvious that the cigars were lost in the normal manners, this man smoked them. The lawyer sued because the policy did not specifically say what kind of fires were covered and not covered. And the lawyer won – the judge in issuing the ruling said, "I agree with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous, but the plaintiff holds a policy from the defendants that states the cigars are insurable, even against fire and it is not specific about what type of fires." So rather than endure a lengthy appeal process, the company paid the claim, but here is where it gets good, after the lawyer cashed the large check, the insurance company had the man arrested for 24 counts of arson, with his own insurance claim and testimony as evidence, the man was convicted of intentionally burning his own property and sentenced to 2 years in jail and a \$24,000 dollar fine.

- I love stories like that – but we think we are so clever, I can just lie my way out of this, I can just trick people and I will be great
 - And it always comes back to haunt us
 - David is a liar, and will have problem after problem because of it

But for the time being in his life, he is not with God's people, he is not where he is suppose to be, he is lying and killing

- and yet for the time being, things are peaceful
 - But the reality is - Satan is going to put something before David that will break his heart, and challenge his future as the King of Israel

And that is exactly how it will be for you and me

- we can say, I need a break from the warfare of walking with God
 - these other Christians certainly aren't nice to me, encouraging for me – I'm going to the world
 - and as we do, things seem to get better for a while

But then Satan is setting you up for a great defeat –

- that is how Satan works – he allows you a break in sinful land for a while, but after 18 days or 18 months or even sometimes 18 years, the bill comes in
 - it will come in – Sin always has a price

And for David we see it in the first 2 verses of chapter 28

- Achish says, we are going to war with Israel and David you are my secret weapon
 - You have been killing the Jews for a year now
 - This will be great
- Oh no – David must have thought – what am I going to do??? – I am suppose to be these people's King and now I am going to have to kill them – I didn't expect this when I lied
 - I didn't expect this when I went to Gath, when I went to the world
 - I thought it would just be a break from the battle – I never thought this would happened

This is the place David found himself in and precious believer, it will be the same place you find yourself in if you decide to leave God's people and God's way and take a break in the world

- There may be a time of peace
 - But the bill is coming and you will have to pay the price – you will reap what you sow, it is not God getting you, it's just the way sin works

What will David do?

- well we won't read it tonight, you certainly can, but in chapter 29 – David and his men are lining up for war
 - and no doubt thinking – what am I going to do – if I go to battle against my countrymen that will be something that will never be forgiven, so I will never be King

But if I don't, then the Philistines are likely to start their war against the Jews with a warm up battle against us 600 men

- and if when you are reading it seems like David wants to go to war, you need to understand, he is acting, he is selling the act to the Philistines
 - but as David and his men are lined up for war, some of the other leaders of the Philistines notice, hey that is David – that is the guy that they used to sing, "David has killed his 10's of thousands" – he is not going to war with us, no matter how things are between him and Saul
- And Achish King of Gath, says, no – David has been making raids against the Jews all the time, they can't stand him there (which really wasn't the case)
 - But the other Kings say – well – what a better way to reconcile with his nation than to turn on us in the battle
 - And who knows that may have been David's real plan all along

But Achish has to tell David, the other leaders of the Philistines would let me take you into battle and David feigns sadness, oh come on let me

- and it all comes back to that one song
 - the one song that started all the problems between Saul and David
 - eventually becomes the song that saved his life and his Kingship

I bet there were times when David heard the song and thought, why did those girls write that song?

- I have been on the run for 10 years now because they got together and sang “David has slain his tens of thousands”
 - But that song God used eventually for good in David’s life

And I don’t know about you but I have seen in my own life, maybe you have too, that some things I once thought – that is a horrible circumstance I have to deal with, why me, why that

- Ends up being an instrument that saves me some day
 - I have people I know, trials I go through that seem to be just plain horrible at first, but over time I see the wisdom of God

I often wondered why when I was 10 I got Type 1 diabetes – I mean I was a healthy skinny, normal 10 year old – why Lord – well I have seen how God has used it to shape my life

- I wanted so bad to serve our country in the military, my grandfather was in the Navy, my step Dad was in the air force – I wanted to serve, and I was bummed that they wouldn’t let me because of Diabetes
 - But who knows if I would be here tonight or married to Christy or anything
- Having that disease has given me such a realization that life is not forever
 - And so I have always been one who does a lot and tries to accomplish as much as possible
 - So what was once David’s trial has really come along in his life as well

Before we go to our next section and learn what was going on in Israel as David was facing problems with the Philistines

- we have looked at the fact that even in this dark season in David’s life, God was faithful
 - but I want you to notice something else from David’s time in Gath

In psalm 8, 81, and 84 it says if you have a King James Version or NIV, in the small writing above the psalm that these psalms were to be played on a Gittith

Now what in the world is that and what does it have to do with anything

- Well if you have a NKJV, it helps you with what a Gittith is, it is an instrument of Gath
 - in other words while David was in the world for a year and half he heard sounds he did not recognize, and discovered this instrument that the people of Gath were using
 - and what David did was take that instrument and write inspired words from God’s heart for that instrument to be used with

And I say that because we don’t run into much here on the West Coast, but from my time in Texas, and you might want to hide this away just in case someone ever asks - are guitars or drums allowed in worship?

- and I went to a main line denominational school when I was young and when I told them I was going to Calvary Chapel, they told me, guitars and drums will never be okay for worship because they are the instrument of the world
 - and you can’t use Satan’s instruments to do God’s work
- And their hearts were sincere – and I didn’t know what to say then,
 - but as I have continued to grow in my walk with God and my knowledge of his Word I realize that David, psalm 8, psalm 81 and 84, took the instruments of the world, the one he found in Gath and used it for inspirational, and acceptable worship to God
- I see from these psalms of David, that worship isn’t about the instrument, it is about the heart communing with God, to inspired words, lifting the soul to the throne room

But beyond that insight, I look at these chapters and I see an even deeper lesson - David he is acting faithless

- and yet God is faithful
 - but that is just who He is
 - He is downright, plain old faithful no matter how you are
- And I believe one of the greatest gifts you can give the Lord is just to trust Him
 - To trust Him with your finances, with your family, with your job

Look I'm a Father – and providing and protecting my kids is just what I do

- I will put food on that table, I will shield them from harm to the best of my ability
 - No matter how they act, no matter how they are doing in obedience
 - Because they are just my kids

And how it would break my heart if they were checking the fringe all day long – is there still food?

- will Dad still clothe me?
 - will Dad protect me?
 - will Dad be there for me?
- It would break my heart, because I'm their Dad and that is just what I do – regardless of them

Chrisy and I were down with Phil and Rebecca and they have 4 kids, 3 boys, just like Phil and you pray for Rebecca – and she said, my kids are so crazy, no one else has crazy kids and I just laughed – I was remembering a year ago when we were in Texas and the kids were young like the McKays are now - we went on a date and my grandma before she went home to be with the Lord was there with them, and bless her heart she just doesn't hear very well - Well we got home and Haley was asleep, but the room looked like a bomb had exploded, toy cases turned over – stuff everywhere, and Jonathan emerges from the closet, with clothes only on his head like a turban – he was holding an empty gallon jug of vinegar – that he must have got by climbing up on the washing machine – did you drink that – no I spilled it, Christy checked his breath, no your breath would smell better, his bed however was drenched

And I was thinking about that story and encouraging Rebecca but I was thinking about my kids - You know I still love him, even that night – because I'm not an acquaintance, I'm not a friend, I'm his Dad

- Friends God is your Father and He will be faithful to you no matter what
 - you say – He left Saul – well Saul decided he wanted nothing to do with God, He didn't want God in his life
 - and if you feel that way, you need to get right, repent – because you are in trouble apart from God

If you don't want God, you are in trouble

- But for those that are His kids
 - You fail, you get an attitude, you get involved in sin, you are faithless
 - But II Timothy says, that even when we are faithless, He remains faithful – plain old down right good to you
- And He is so blessed when you just trust Him
 - Friends, I just expect God to bless – not to always make me happy or what I think is a blessing, but I expect God to bless, because He is my Dad and He loves me
- And His love for me is not based on my fickleness, it is just who He is – and to walk in that I believe brings a real smile to his face
 - Would you trust him with your finances, health
- Would you trust him with your kids, with your wife, with your husband
 - It will bring a smile to His face, and, and – oh this is key – it will bring a smile to yours
- Well while David is learning all of these key lessons in his life – Saul is distraught in Israel as he sees the war clouds approaching, but what He does is dumb

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- Start reading in verse 4-19

As Saul notices the Philistines gathering for battle he doesn't know what to do

- He no longer has an active relationship with God, but he longs for spiritual insight so Saul decides to go to a medium and psychics and contact Samuel who has died at this point in the story to see what He should do
 - The problem is Saul has banished all mediums and psychics out of the land – something good he did while King
- But there is this woman in En Dor – **Picture Star Wars Endor**
 - No En Dor is not a moon in Star Wars – well is it, but this En Dor is not far from where Saul was camped

Map of En Dor (Mount Tabor) – Pictures of Endor

So Saul pretends to be someone else and in order to fool this psychic which brings up and interesting point

- If she was psychic, should she have known – I mean what good is a psychic who doesn't know when King Saul walks in the door – remember he is seven feet tall – you don't have to be psychic to know who it is
 - But she doesn't know and she asks what do you want me to do
 - And Saul wants to see Samuel

Now this passage has caused some confusion and different commentators interpret it different ways

- some bible scholars believe the lady was faking, some people believe this was a deception from the enemy
 - but I believe this really was Samuel

#1 – Because the lady freaks out when she sees Samuel

- this again just shows what a fraud this lady is, she is used to tricks, but this is something she has never seen before

#2 – Because Samuel tells Saul the truth

- if this was the enemy doing something
 - and he can by the way
 - I remember my real father telling me that he has visited a psychic and the psychic told him things no one else could ever have known so it must be real – and I didn't know what to think as a kid, but now I say, yes it was real – real evil
- Satan can imitate but I don't think the message would be, today you are going to die, I think the message would have been, you are doing a great job Saul, but try to kill David again today

#3 – The Bible says, “Samuel said to Saul.” – verse 16

- so I believe this was really Samuel and notice his message to Saul – [16-19](#)
 - Saul tomorrow you are going to be with me

There is a real debate, was Saul saved

- and I have to say reading this text that yes Saul was carnal, yes Saul had serious problems, but I believe Saul was saved, for many reasons but especially verse 19
 - now we can look at that and think – how could that be, he was so off, he made so many poor choices
- But I was thinking – what would my life and your life look like if every detail was penned down – every thought, every action, even those things only you know about – would people read that story and think – Saul looks pretty good

Again – I think the Lord is far more gracious than we are

- that is not to say sin doesn't have consequences, it will for Saul and it will for you

- but I don't believe God is looking for loop holes not to save people
- personally I believe He is looking for reasons to accept them in

And I wanted to mention that to you because I know many of you have prodigals and in your mind you think, what happened

- When you were their youth pastor Jason they went to camp and they made professions of faith and they loved Jesus
 - But now they are so lost in the world and I'm worried – I get that
- But I was reading this passage and I just believe the Lord would want me to encourage your heart – Saul was saved – not saved from the effects of sin, and neither will your kids – but will you see them in heaven? – I believe so

Now I know there are those of you in this room that that irritates – no, no, no – they are in sin and you know Jason what the Bible says about continual sin – I do, of course

- But first of all I really believe the Lord directed my attention to verse 19 to encourage someone in the room tonight
 - And really this attitude where you know for sure who is saved and who isn't and you get to decide – well honestly that sounds a lot more like a Pharisee than Jesus

Who said to the woman caught in the very act of adultery – woman I don't condemn you – What? Go and sin no more – Jesus was honest about the pain sin brings and the need to avoid it, but he did not condemn that lady, no I believe Saul

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- Meanwhile – back with David, he has just been rejected by the Philistines to go to battle with them, God bails him out
 - But then on the way back home to his family – tragedy strikes – [look at verses 1-19](#)

As David comes back home he is devastated

- His city is burned
 - His family is gone – and you can just imagine in his mind what he thought his wives and kids were going through, if they were even alive
 - And it was not just David, all of his men were suffering
- And it was all his fault – David should not have been in the land of Philistines, he should not have been at Ziklag – this was all his fault

Yet I want to give you a preview – [verse 18](#) – “David recovered all that the Amalakites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives

- And that will just be the result for David, it will be the result for all that is around him

But before we touch on how and why that happened - what I want us to do, is to contrast this to what happens to Saul in chapter 31,

- We will come back to chapter 30 in just a minute, but watch Saul face very similar circumstances, but with a very different result

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- [Read verses 1-6](#)

Saul like David is watching his world go up in smoke

- He watches his sons die - He watches the men of Israel being butchered by the Philistines

- And I wish there was a verse we would read next that would say, and Saul recovered all that the Philistines had carried away - But that is not what comes next, what comes next is the end of Saul and his family and his kingdom

A sad, sad end for the first King of Israel

- He sees his sons die
 - He watches his men die
 - He falls on his own sword and dies
 - And Israel falls into the hands of the Philistines
- What a contrast to David, who recovered all
 - But what was the difference?
- They both were not where they should not have been with the Lord
 - They both certainly did not deserve to recover all, so what happened?

Well if we go back to chapter 30 we are going to see David do something that will set him apart from Saul

- We are almost done but I want you to press in and listen
 - because maybe you find yourself in a similar situation to David and Saul
 - maybe it seems that everything is burning around you
 - maybe your family is being torn apart
- And maybe just maybe, like Saul and David, it's your fault

What are you going to do – fall on your sword like Saul and loose all, or do you want to recover all

- Well if you want to recover all, tune in

Why did David recover all?

David encouraged himself in the Lord – I Samuel 30:6

- No one at this moment was going to encourage David, he needed to encourage himself
 - And often times this is how it is
 - We need to learn how to encourage ourselves – if all we do is wait for the pastor or a neighbor there will be trouble
- But how did David encourage himself in the Lord
 - We don't know, it doesn't say
 - Well thanks a lot

Hey but what do we know from the scriptures?

- We know he probably worshipped
 - David was there when that distressing Spirit came upon Saul and as David played worship, the distressing spirit went away
 - I bet David learned that and realized, hey when I am distressed I need to worship
- Music effects us emotionally
 - I hope a huge part of your iPod or your CD collection is dedicated to worship
 - Can't I listen to others stuff – I guess you can – I can't, I get emotionally affected
 - Country music with the songs about the girls leaving you and the dog dying – no wonder you are depressed – I get depressed when country music comes on
- Pop music today is designed to seduce you – I was at a place where background music was playing and every song was about hooking up and having sex and it is designed to affect you emotionally

OH I'm into the heavy stuff

- well I used to be to and I would get so angry
 - It seems to me – country is designed to depress
 - Pop is designed to seduce – my country music doesn't depress me – well maybe that is just evidence that Taylor Swift really is more Pop than country – anyway – repeat...
 - Metal is designed to anger
- There is an emotional response

- And worship is designed to chase away the enemy
- So do you have to only listen to worship – no – if you want to be depressed, seduced and angry – do whatever you want
- But if you want to encourage yourself in the Lord, spend sometime in worship
 - I bet David worshipped

I bet David got in the Word

- all through the Psalms, David holds up the importance of the Word of God to encourage you and strengthen your walk with God
 - do you have to read your Bible to be a Christian
 - nope – but why wouldn't you want to be encouraged and built up – why would you not want your spouse, your children, running their emotions through the grid of God's Word

I bet David worshiped, I bet he prayed, we know verse 8, David talked things over with the Lord – he prayed

- And I find it so amazing that God didn't say – oh where have you been for 18 months?
 - Haven't heard that voice in a long time
 - No way – God just meets David in his trail and God will do the same to you
- Do you feel like your world is going up in smoke?
 - Then strengthen yourself in the Lord!

Spend sometime in worship, spend some time in the Word, and talk things over with Him in prayer

- and what you will find is like David, God won't chide you for being away
 - He will welcome you back with open arms
 - And with Him – you will recover all
- God will restore the years that locusts have eaten
 - He will turn beauty into ashes
 - He will give you a garment of praise as you give Him your spirit of heaviness
 - That is the kind of God we serve

Or like King Saul – you can go it on your own

- you can figure things out yourself
 - but eventually you are going to fall on your sword
 - because the world, my flesh and the devil are horrible things to worship and serve
- But there is no one like the Lord our God!
 - Next week we will get into II Samuel and we will see David as King over Judah and how eventually he becomes King over Israel
 - Hope you can be with us!