

1 Samuel 23 - Walking in the Spirit

Life of David Series

(David: After God's Own Heart)

Paul the apostle made this powerful statement in **Galatians 5:16 - ¹⁶I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

A) I think that right there is the challenge we all face on a daily basis – many circumstances

B) Am I going to in this moment – in this situation – walk in the Spirit or walk in the flesh

C) To put it another way: Am I going to respond in the Spirit or React in the flesh?

Bad news comes – Am I going to react in the flesh – get mad – get defensive

A) Or Am I going to respond in the Spirit

B) It is hard right? I will be the first to admit – I don't always get it right

C) My Wife would echo that truth- the people I work with would echo that truth

1) My kids who are all grown up now – would echo – yea our dad didn't always get it right

D) We are all broken – broken people who are in the process of being transformed..... Redeemer

My hope is this that through the years I have been growing – React less.. flesh / Respond more.. spirit

A) Well in our text today we are going to see a time in David's life – he does this –

B) Instead of Reacting in his flesh – he is responding in the Spirit

C) What David does here – Looks so much like Jesus

For those of you who haven't been with us – bring you up to speed in the story

A) We left off last week – 1 Samuel 20 – David learns he needs to flee for his life

B) King Saul is not going to stop chasing him until he is dead.

C) What ensues is a period of about 13 years where David is living on the run – hiding in caves

1) Hiding in the wilderness

He runs to the priest who help David and they end up getting slaughtered by King Saul for it

A) A bunch of the Priest of God are now dead – and David feels like it is his fault

B) That sends him off the deep end emotionally – he seeks sanctuary in Gath – Capital of the Philistines

1) The Place where Goliath is from

C) The Philistines are like – isn't this the guy who killed our champion – Goliath

D) This is the guy the Israelites wrote that #1 song about – Saul... 1k's / David... 10k's

E) What is he doing here? We should kill him

David immediately realizes – this is a bad idea and he pretends to be crazy – foaming mouth

A) The leader of the Philistines is like – we don't need to kill him – punishment enough to live like that

B) Send him away – David flees back to Israel – Pick it up in Chapter 22:1

David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard *it*, they went down there to him.

² And everyone *who was* in distress, everyone *who was* in debt, and everyone *who was* discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

Now before you start thinking – how awesome that God brought so many guys to David

A) Look again at the description

B) In Distress – Men who were not emotionally Stable

C) In Debt – instead of being a blessing financially – they are a weight financially

D) Discontented- A bunch a disgruntled complainers

This is not the ideal group to start things with.

A) Men who were emotionally unstable and moody

B) Guys who were a financial liability and weight

1) And guys who were overly critical

C) Imagine if someone called you tomorrow and said we want you to run our company.

1) We think you would be a great leader

But this is what you need to know- the Company has massive debt

A) All the employees are freaking out and are emotionally unstable

B) And the overall – attitude of everyone is discontentment

1) The Culture here is marked by Criticalness and suspicion

C) Who signs up for that? – No thank you

D) David didn't sign up for this – But this is who God brought to him – to lead

1) This would be his training ground

Pick up the Story in Chapter 23

¹Then they told David, saying, “Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors.”

Keilah was a city in the lowland areas of Judah – they were being ransacked by the Philistines

This news is brought to David.

A) In his flesh – David could have responded in several ways to this news.

B) He could have attacked Saul – he could have said if King Saul was doing his job... instead of chasing...

1) This wouldn't have happened

C) He could have used this as a moment to promote himself – if I was King – this wouldn't ...happened

D) In his flesh he could have ignored the situation

1) Not my problem

E) David does know of the above.

Instead he shows a concern for this city and these people.

A) Consider – Characteristics of walking in the Spirit

#1 He has a genuine concern for others!

B) David was a man after God's own heart

C) When he hears that God's people are suffering It grieves him he wants to help – he is concerned

D) Because I want to respond in the Spirit instead of reacting in the flesh – pray often

1) Lord give me your eyes and your heart – people see today – situations I will encounter today.

One of the things we read in the scriptures about Jesus over and over – He had Compassion

A) Compassion is defined as a genuine concern for another person's distress and a desire to alleviate it

B) Another definition is to get into someone else's skin and feel what they are feeling

1) Coupled with a desire to change their situation

C) Jesus saw the Multitudes and had Compassion on them – Sheep without a shepherd

1) He desired to love them and lead

He had compassion on the Lepers – Cleansed them

A) He had compassion on the multitudes who had been with him 3 days - collapse on the way home

B) So he multiplied bread and fish to feed them

C) Funeral Widow Nain – grieving for her son

Over and over we read of Jesus – He had compassion on people

A) When we are walking in the spirit instead of the Flesh – See people situations – his eyes / his heart

B) We will have compassion- We will desire to help

C) But here is the thing: We don't have the capacity to fix every problem

1) Can't respond to every situation – We have to be directed by the Lord

Here we see the 2nd Characteristic of walking in the Spirit in David's life ²Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go and attack these Philistines?”

A) David is not reacting in his Flesh – even in a good way trying to be the hero

B) He Prays- He inquires of the Lord – this is the 2nd characteristic of those who are walking....spirit

1) They are people of prayer

C) Situation arises – They inquire of the Lord – Jesus do you want me to do anything here?

I am a firm believer that many times when the Lord brings a problem or need to your attention

A) It is because He wants you to be a part of the solution

B) Starts with Prayer – Lord I see this problem – do you want me to help fix it?

1) If so how?

C) In a church our size- there can be a lot of opinions

People see a problem – see something not being done the best way – Opinion

A) But have you ever thought – maybe the Lord is pointing this out to me.... Part of the solution

B) Maybe it is not here – but it is at your work -or maybe somewhere else you are involved

1) The flesh loves to complain and be critical when we see problems

C) Can I encourage you – let your first response be to pray.

Pray for those leaders, pray for that situation – and pray and ask the Lord –

A) Do you want me to be a part of the Solution

B) David shows great restraint as well as wisdom here: Being a man who was willing to be led by the Lord – *so David inquired of the Lord*

And the LORD said to David, “Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah.”

[God gives David the ok]

³But David’s men said to him, “Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?”

⁴Then David inquired of the LORD once again.

Third mark of a man walking in the Spirit – He is sensitive to those who are around him.

A) David’s men object here – they are concerned they are afraid – how is David going to respond – You?

B) Leaders listen to me here: Husbands listen

C) I think many of us would have been tempted to ramrod our way into this thing –

1) I am the boss this is what we are doing – I am the husband – leader of this home – Submit – stupid

D) So stupid and Opposite of Jesus – Jesus was so in tune to his disciples needs –

1) He knew when they needed rest – when afraid – Patiently brought them along

E) Some people react all spiritual – when they are questioned by others –

1) I heard from the Lord – I have the anointing – you need to follow

F) My reaction is to Run from Christian leaders who drop the “I have the anointing card”

David doesn’t do any of those things

A) So what did David do? ⁴Then David inquired of the LORD once again.

B) David says ok – you guys don’t feel right about this – let me go talk to the Lord again – to make sure

C) My wife – If she doesn’t have a peace – I pray some more – God speak to her as well.

1) INSIGHT or follow Rob

LEADERSHIP TEAM – not in full agreement we don’t go forward –

A) We have had times when 10 of us are sensing strongly from the Lord – do this – go here – etc

B) And two guys have a check about it – We don’t move - We put it on the shelf – continue to pray

C) Things that I felt strongly about – 9 guys agreed with me – 2 didn’t – Never happened – Ok

Here is what David is doing with this group of in debt, discontent and in distress men

A) David is establishing himself as a man of prayer

B) Not leaning to his own understanding – not pushing for his way – So David inquires of the Lord again

And the LORD answered him and said, “Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand.” ⁵And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a

mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

C)Knowing that God was in this enabled them to fight with great confidence & God gave the Victory]

⁶Now it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, *that* he went down *with* an ephod in his hand.

D)The Ephod was this Apron that the High Priest wore – breast plate – contained the Urim/ Thummim

1)Two stones that would change colors – and God used this as a way to lead his people in the OT

E)So David and his men are no doubt excited that they can be even more led by the Lord V. 7 ->

⁷And Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. So Saul said, “God has delivered him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars.” ⁸Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

⁹When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, “Bring the ephod here.”

¹⁰Then David said, “O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. ¹¹Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant.” [

David is further establishing himself as a man of Prayer!]

And the LORD said, “He will come down.”

¹²Then David said, “Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?”

And the LORD said, “They will deliver *you*.”

Now this is amazing – they will turn on you- he just rescued these people –

A)Ministry minded listen: This is common – people you help will often turn on you – find fault with you

B)It just comes with the Territory – and when that happens – people helped – loved turn on you

1)There can be a temptation to want to isolate yourself – protect yourself

C)To say I am never going to do that again- not going to make myself VULNERABLE anymore

D)Can’t handle this pain – Hurts too bad

1)Lani in Oregon

I said to her – and I have said to myself – many times when I have been hurt by people trying to help

A)Can’t do that – Jesus invites us to follow him

B)He loved people – he knew would betray him and forsake him – Washed Judas feet – Wow!!!!

C)Washed Peters feet – knowing Deny even knowing me!

D)Jesus made himself vulnerable and cared for people he knew would turn on him

1)That is what he invites us into in following him

4TH Characteristic of a man walking in the Spirit – He doesn’t hold grudges.

A) Later on when David becomes King – he doesn’t go back and take vengeance on Keilah.

B)People will disappoint – let down – surprise you in the worst of ways – comes with the territory

1)Get used to it – but don’t be overcome by this

C)I know some people who would be talking about this for yrs –

1)can you believe what those bozo’s in Keilah did to us – NOT DAVID

¹³So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.

¹⁴And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

¹⁵So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David *was* in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest. ¹⁶Then Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.

Here we see Jonathan is also walking in the Spirit

A)It would have been easy for Jonathan to be this way toward David – out of sight out of mind

B)He could have been – I am too busy to get involved

C)Being led by the Lord he goes to find David in the woods – and strengthened David’s hands in God

D)Strengthening hands = to fasten upon / to seize / to make strong / to repair / to fortify / to make Valiant

That is what Jonathan did for David –

A)He Helped his friend in this low time –become stronger / more Valiant /

B)Help fortify Him in the Lord

C)Consider what David’s hands were used for? They were used to fight for Israel

1)Play an instrument for worship / write beautiful Psalms of Praise

D)Jonathan wanted to be sure David could still do those things

ARE YOU ONE WHO STRENGTHENS PEOPLE’S HANDS IN THE LORD?

A)When you leave them they are encouraged and inspired to use their gifts for JESUS

B)What can we learn from Jonathan about Strengthening others hands in the Lord?

¹⁷And he said to him, “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. *You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you.* Even my father Saul knows that.” ¹⁸So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.

C)Note 3 ways Jonathan strengthened... in the Lord

1st He reminded David of the Lord’s Presence w/ Him – Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you.

A)David could reject fear because God would ultimately protect him (Saul my father shall not find you).

B)Jonathan was reminding David that One w/ God is a majority

Heb. 13:5 *For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”* ⁶*So we may boldly say:*

“The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

C)One of the greatest things we can do to strengthen a bro/sis/ in a difficult time

1)is to remind them of the Lord’s Presence w/ them.

Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God. J. Oswald Sanders.

2nd thing that Jonathan did was to remind David of God’s promise to him *You shall be king over Israel.*

A)We are called to be Promise believers –

B)Sometimes in the mist of our situations the Devil gets us to forget the promise of God!!!

C)In those times especially we need to remember that our Lord is a God who keeps His promises

Sometimes a political candidate who wishes to be reelected to office will say, *“I stand on my record.”*

A)Imagine G. Newsome – All the things people will bring up – POOR RECORD

B)Well Our faith stands on the record of what God has done, HIS RECORD IS FLAWLESS

C)Faith is not inherited, nor does it come by accident. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God and discovering that God keeps his promises.

D)Faith is “standing on the promises.”

The Chronicles of Narnia, are wonderful children's stories written by

A)In the second book, Prince Caspian, Lucy enters Narnia again, and she hasn't seen Aslan, this lion figure who represents Christ.

B)She has not seen him in a long time, and they have a wonderful reunion. Lucy says to Aslan, who represents Christ, *“Aslan, you're bigger now.”*

Aslan says, *“Lucy, that's because you are older. You see, Lucy, every year that you grow, you will find me bigger.”*

The Same things holds true for us in our walk with Jesus

A)The Longer we walk with the Lord – the more we experience of Lord and his grace

B) We find him BIGGER in his grace and goodness

C) In all of our weak moments – We experience the sufficiency of his Grace

1) Power made perfect in weakness

D) Sometimes we just need a friend like Jonathan to come along

1) And remind us of the bigness & the faithfulness of God

E) Jonathan comes to David and gives David affirmation of what God was doing in His life

3rd thing that Jonathan did to Strengthen David's hands in the Lord was to remind him of the Lord's Power in his life

A) My father even knows this to be true

B) Reminder of God's Power in our lives –

1) Because we are in his hands we cannot be in the hands of the enemy

C) We belong to God – no weapon formed against us will prosper –

D) Jesus told his disciples – the enemy and persecutors might be able to destroy the body

1) Kill you Physically

E) No one can affect the real you – your Spirit – that is in the hands of your father

1) Fear him – reverence him

So Jonathan is a beautiful picture here of how to strengthen each other in the Lord

A) Remind each other when we see a brother or sister in distress of God's Presence / Promise / Power

B) God wants us to be a family that is strengthen each other's hands in the Lord

C) Here is an interesting thing about the wording of what Jonathan did.

1) He strengthened David's hands in God

We are going to see in few weeks one of the lowest moments in David's life 1 Samuel 30

A) A moment when he was on the verge of losing everything

B) A moment where things could have gone in a direction really bad –

C) It tells us that David strengthened his own hands in the Lord

1) Same wording – no accident

What Jonathan did here this day – would be a lesson a moment of clarification

A) Where David at a later Date when Jonathan wasn't there

B) David would learn from this experience – of what Jonathan did for him

1) How to do that for himself – when Jonathan wasn't there.

The Bible tells us we are to Stir up each other to love & good works –

A) The word stir up = to Stimulate –

B) Paddles used to stimulate the heart to get it going again / Electrical currents – Clear

C) We need Friendships that stimulate your walk with the Lord!

1) Build up rather than tear down!

Think about your closest relationships - what are the key ingredients?

A) What effects does time together have on you?

Is it a friendship where you are stirring one another up in the Lord?

B) It can be – it needs to be – Follow Jonathan's example learn to remind each other

1) God's Presence – Promise - Power – AMEN – PRAY

COMMUNION:

A) REMEMBER JESUS – who didn't hold a grudge

B) Who was willing to make himself vulnerable – Give himself for us

C) Knowing we would Resist him - forsake him – betray him –

D) Friend who sticks closer than a brother

Something different – never done on a Sunday

A)If you are in distress – difficult time – going through a heavy trial

B)Encourage you – before you head to the communion table – Come in Humility – Kneel /stand

C)Your way of saying to Jesus – I need to be strengthened – strengthen my hands

Listen we are going to give opportunity today for us as a body to strengthen one another

A)As people are kneeling up here – if you feel led by the Lord to come prayer over your bros and sisters

B)Come lay a hand on their shoulder – pray for them
Know God’s presence – Promise – Power

C)And as you are in prayer -if the Lord gives you a word of Knowledge – wisdom – comfort

1)Encouragement – speak it –

D)Whisper in their ear – I think God is wanting me to tell you this. – Seem weird

Billy and Lucas

A)Billy struggling – wanting to lead this church well – maybe trying too hard – resistance

B)Quit trying to take it – make them see you as the leader – rest in the reality – God has given you this

C)Seemed weird but it was the Lord

So if the Lord impresses on your heart – a Word – speak it

A)Someone does that – go home today – ask Jesus – was that from you.

B)Ok – Communion – come – Prayer – Come

C)Stir up – Come

D)Next few minutes Minister to the Lord and allow him to minister to us