

“Forgiving Again and Again”: 1 Sam. 26

David spares Saul’s life as he questions Abishai’s attitude (1-12)

Q: “WHO CAN STRETCH HIS HAND AGAINST GOD’S ANOINTED”?

*Resident squealers--the Ziphites again sell out David, as in 24:19-21.

*Abishai goes with David on what seems to be a suicide mission.

Abishai: David’s nephew (1 Ch. 2:15,16); a bro. of Joab, Asahel.

2 Sam. 2:18, 10:10, 16:9, 18:2,19:21, 20:6, 21:15-17, 23:18,19

*David’s stealth is aided by God (“deep sleep” in Gen. 2:21, 15:12)

*Contrast David and Abishai (again with discerning God’s will = 24:6 / 26:8. What did David learn from Nabal’s fate? See 25:38 / 26:10.

*Purpose of this mission?

David demands Abner’s life as he questions his ability (13-16)

QUESTION: “WHY HAVE YOU NOT GUARDED YOUR LORD THE KING”?

*Why does David seemingly taunt Abner? (17:55, 2 Sam. 3)

*Contrast David and Abner:

David pleads for his life as he questions Saul’s pursuit (17-25)

QUESTION: “WHY THEN IS MY LORD PURSUING HIS SERVANT”?

*David affirms geographical connection of God / land: 2 Kgs. 5:17

*Saul repents again and admits David will prosper as in 24:16-20.

*David spares / forgives but distrusts Saul (won’t return w/spear).

Consider:

Again, how does this episode clear David of being power hungry?

Again, do I confuse God’s will with circumstances?

How many times do I forgive my brother? Is trust always restored?

Am I willing to take a risk (usually not this scary!) for reconciliation