

1 Samuel 26:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?"

<sup>2</sup> Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph.

<sup>3</sup> And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon, by the road. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

## ***On the Road Again*** **1 Samuel 26**

INTRO:

We don't know how long after the events of **1 Samuel 24**, the events of **1 Samuel 26** took place. Most likely, it did not happen too much later. We find those trouble makers, the Ziphites, turning on David again. So, King Saul chased after David. This time his hunt will push David to flee to Philistia. The writer told the story in three scenes.

*I. Saul comes hunting again (verse 1-3)*

*II. David's Action (verse 4-13)*

*III. David Confronts Saul (v. 14-25)*

*I. Saul comes hunting again (verse 1-3)*

**1 Samuel 26:1-3** *"Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, 'Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?' Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph. And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon, by the road. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness."*

A. We find that Saul is the obsessed and jealous king who cannot let go of the idea that Yahweh, God of Israel rejected he and his line as king in Israel and chose David, the man after God's own heart, to replace him. So, even after the strong statements of regret and forgiveness he gave in **1 Samuel 24**, as soon as the Ziphites tattle on David again, Saul cannot resist the temptation to kill David again. Saul overlooked the promises he extracted from David and the concession he admitted.

**1 Samuel 24:20–22** *“And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. Therefore swear now to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s house So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.”*

B. The Ziphites were inhabitants of Judah and they are quick to snitch on David. They told Saul right where David was. Saul assembled his Special Forces and pursued David again and they went hunting David.

## ***II. David’s Action (verse 4-13)***

**verses 7-10** *“So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him. Then Abishai said to David, ‘God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!’ But David said to Abishai, ‘Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’s anointed, and be guiltless?’ David said furthermore, ‘As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.’”*

A. Saul camped right where the Ziphites had told him David was. However, David discovered where Saul was camping. David and Abishai boldly sneak into the camp and come upon Saul. A whispered conversation takes place and David once again affirms that the LORD will have to deal with His anointed not David.

B. No one heard this conversation because of **verse 12**.

***“No man saw or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.”***

Not only did David and Abishai sneak into camp the LORD helped by putting everyone asleep. This is the same ***“deep sleep”*** the LORD cause to fall upon Adam and upon Abraham. God was actively working on David’s behalf behind the scenes.

## ***III. David Confronts Saul (v. 14-25)***

**verses 18-20** *“And he said, ‘Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand? Now therefore, please, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering. But if it is the children of men, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, ‘Go, serve other gods.’ So now, do not let my*

***blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD. For the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains.”***

A. After putting some distance between himself and Saul, David shouts to Abner and talks with Saul. The point is while they were earnestly seeking David, David had been in their midst and had in effect picked their pocket. He had Saul's spear and his water bottle. Saul promised he would not pursue David again, but he went against his word.

B. In **verses 18-20** David outlined the problem. David did nothing against Saul. If Yahweh had stirred up Saul, David could give an offering to make things right with the LORD. If people had stirred Saul up then they should know that David was about to flee away from the covenant people to find safety with the heathen.

1. It wasn't that David thought the LORD was a limited deity. He knew better.

2. We need to remember that the acceptable worship of God was geographic in origin. Offerings had to be made in Shiloh. So if David fled to Philistia, he fled to a place where he could not enter into the public worship of God.

C. Finally, Saul acknowledges his sin and leaves David alone.

### ***Why Did the LORD put this in His Word?***

#### **The point**

1. God continued to work in the background to protect David and ultimately make him king.

2. David found out King Saul was not to be trusted.

3. David's confident faith in God made him not kill Saul but he did flee from him. We need to have confidence God will one day make all things right.

4. Do we allow trials to drive us away from the living God or toward Him?

### **Hymn #47 God Will Take Care Of You**