

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)

TITLE: Program 23 – Camp Wilderness

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Do you find yourself, my friend, in a situation and it's so hard and it is so difficult and it is so dark that you feel like you'll never find your way out of that situation? Beloved, listen to me very, very carefully. Don't move without God's direction. Don't do something rash because if you'll wait on God's timing in that situation, in that wilderness, God will deliver you in His way in His time.

PART ONE

Welcome, my friend, to Camp Wilderness. Do you feel like that's what it is that life is just nothing but a wilderness? Beloved, that's going to come to an end in God's time and in God's way and what I want you to remember today as we look at 1 Samuel chapter 24 is that God has His timing. He's not going to leave you in this wilderness, in this difficult situation any longer than is necessary, because God has a purpose in it. You know so often I can get

through something if I know that it is not meaningless, if I know that it has a purpose, if I know that God is at work. And if I've submitted myself to God and so that I am a woman after God's own heart, so that whatever God wants is what I want. Then I'm able to get through these difficult situations and I will tell you there times when I wanted (CLAPS HANDS) to cut and run. There were times when I wanted to get out of there. There were times when I wanted to say, "Enough! I am not going to do this. I have dreams and I have hopes and I have desires and these are not being met. I'm out of here." That's the flesh and that's the temptation but I'm so thankful that I know enough of the Word of God that I understand the character of God and the sovereignty of God and the ways of God. I am so thankful that I know and understand His precepts for life and because I know all this, because I have I have been seasoned and established in the Word of God, I have a fear of God. A fear of God rather that is a respectful trust of God of remembering I am not God. Of remembering that I am not my own, of remembering that I've been bought with a price, of remembering that I am to glorify God in my body and in my spirit, of remembering that it is the suffering that teaches me obedience. It was said about Jesus that He learned obedience. Now this is the Son of God. He learned obedience through the things which He suffered. So right now, what's going on in your life in this trial, in this wilderness where it's barren and it's hot and it's dry and there's no sign of life in that in that wilderness, I want you to know that God is moving on His time table. God is never late. Let's look at it. Let's go to 1 Samuel chapter 24. Now in 1 Samuel chapter 24, David had gone into the cave with his men. All right? Saul unknowing came into that same cave to relieve himself. He didn't have all of his men with him. He went into the cave to relieve himself. As he was relieving himself, David came up and with his sword cut off a piece of Saul's robe. Then his consciousness was smitten and it was smitten because he did not honor Saul the way he ought to honor Saul as the king. Not Saul the man because Saul the man was not being the man that he should be but Saul

the king, God's anointed. The king that was chosen by God, anointed by God and put in that position. Yes, David knew he was going to be king. He knew that he was going to replace Saul. God had told him that before he ever killed Goliath and God told him that someday that he would rule over Israel. And yet, he is having to wait on God's timing. And he is having to go through this wilderness experience because God has a plan and He is executing everything according to that plan and He's doing the same thing for you, Precious One. And when I say Precious One, I mean it and I want you to know that whether you feel like it or not if you are a child of God, if you have been born of God, if you have received Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God has come inside of you and He's changed you, you can know that you are precious to God and God is working out the purpose. Well, David is smitten. His conscience has afflicted him because of what he did and he says to his men, "You're not going to kill Saul. He is the Lord's anointed and we are not going to touch him." (PARAPHRASE 1 SAMUEL 24:6) Saul relieves himself. Goes outside the cave then David comes out with his sword and with this piece of Saul's robe and he cries to Saul and he gets his attention and then he says in verse 11 of 24, **"Now, my father, see! Indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands...I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life to take it."** (1 SAMUEL 24:11) You're trying to kill me but I want you to know, see this piece of robe? I had the opportunity to kill you and you've been telling everybody that I'm trying to kill you. You've been telling everybody that I am pursuing you. You've been telling everybody that they've got to get me before I get you and I want you to know it's a lie and I have just proven that it is a lie. See? See your robe? Now watch what he says, **"May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you."** (1 SAMUEL 24:12) What is he saying? This is a very important

statement. What he's saying is God is going to deal with you, I'm not. I'm not going to take matters into my own hands. I am not going to preempt God. May God avenge me on you but I will not kill you. I had the opportunity and I did not do it. Now watch what is said and he's still speaking to Saul. **"As the proverb[s] of the ancients say, 'Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness'; but my hand shall not be against you."** (1 SAMUEL 24:13) What did he just say? Listen. The wickedness that you have towards me to kill me has come because you're wicked because your heart is wicked. Out of the wicked come wickedness. And what he is saying is I am not wicked. I am not wicked and listen to me, Beloved. If you are a child of God, you're not wicked. You may be angry. You may feel like vengeance is yours. You may have in your mind plotted and thought what could happen to this person or how God could get rid of them or how an accident could happen or how you could be relieved from your situation, from your stress, from your distress but look, that is the flesh. You are not wicked. If you are a child of God, you have been declared righteous by God. You have been put in right standing with God and you have a warfare going inside of you as Galatians 5:16 says that if we walk by the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. So what he's saying is here you are. And he says, "You're walking in the flesh." And he says, "Yet the Spirit of God is inside of you." And so he says, "Though we walk in the flesh," and he's talking about our fleshly body, "Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh." And he says, "You and I have fleshly desires but if we allow the Spirit to take control then we will not follow the deeds of the flesh." So to do wickedly, you think maybe sometimes wickedly but if you belong to God, God's going to keep bringing you back to the plumb line of God's Word. God's going to bring you back to the precepts of life and He's going to say, "Wait a minute. You can't walk that way." He says, "[If you will] **walk by the Spirit...**" Galatians 5:16, if you will keep on walking by the Spirit, **"... you will not [fulfill]... the desires of the flesh."** Because the

flesh is pulling you back and the flesh is saying, “Come on back here. Come on back here.” And you’re saying, “No, no. I’m not going to walk by the flesh. I’m going to walk by the Spirit and all the the flesh is over here saying, Give me, give me, give me,” the Holy Spirit inside of you is over here saying, “Holy, holy, holy.” So you’re going like this. I mean you’re drawn this way the Spirit. You’re drawn that way by the flesh. You have a choice. You don’t put it into neutral and coast. You put it into overdrive and when you put it into overdrive, Beloved, then you walk by the Spirit and you do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh although the flesh is crying out for satisfaction. David’s flesh was crying out for satisfaction but he overcame the flesh. And he overcame the flesh, Beloved, by, by walking according to God’s Word, according to God’s way by waiting on God. All right, now let’s look at it. He says in verse 14, “.... **Whom are you pursuing?**” **“After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog...?”** Are you looking for a dead dog? Are you looking for “...**a single flea?**”(1 Samuel 24:14) Now do you know how tiny a flea is? I mean you feel it before you see it. He says, “Are you looking for a single little flea?” That’s what I am. Is that what you’re looking for? He says, “**The LORD therefore...**” term of conclusion, “**...be judge and decide between you and me;...**” (1 SAMUEL 24:15) Let God be God. He’s a judge. You see, we know Him as a loving Father. We want to know Him as a loving and gracious God and that He is but there’s another side to that coin. And the other side to that coin is that God is judge. He is the judge of all the earth. He is the righteous judge and the righteous judge will do what is right and the righteous judge, listen to me carefully, will not let anyone Christian or non-Christian get away with sin. Sin has to be judged, why? Because sin is destructive. Because sin will destroy you and so this is what he says, “[And] **When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, ‘Is this your voice, my son David?’ [And] Then Saul lifted up his voice and [he] wept.**” (1 SAMUEL 24:16) Saul is weeping. He’s heard the voice of

David. He has seen his robe in his hand. He has probably turn turned around, looked at his robe, pulled it up and he's seen hey, that is my robe. There's a hole in my robe. And then he says this, **"You have declared today that you have done good to me, that the LORD delivered me into your hand and yet you did not kill me."** (1 SAMUEL 24:18) Put a tombstone over kill. Remember, we're marking every incident of death. Well, Beloved, it's time for that break and I'll be right back.

PART TWO

Welcome back. I left you right in the middle of Saul's words given in tears as he talks to David because all of a sudden here's the mirror of a godly man. The example of a man whose heart is really God's and he has just seen it in David's reaction to Saul. When David could have killed Saul, he did not do it. So everything that Saul has said about David pursuing him, all of a sudden is exposed as a great big lie and you know whose standing there? I mean they're not standing there alone. Saul has 3000 men with him. David has 600 men with him. There are 3,600 witnesses to what just went on and I want you to know, Beloved, that when you study the book of Hebrews, it talks about that chapter of faith and how people endured without receiving the promise and how they were willing to be put to death and not accept a better resurrection and how they wandered around. Men of whom the world was not worthy and then he says and seeing [we have so great a cloud of witnesses.] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 12:1) Let us press on. Now what is God telling you? God's telling you this. He knows you're in the wilderness. He knows that it is hard. He knows the pain. He knows the hurt. He's there with you; He has not left you. He has not forsaken you but He has a time and He has a purpose. So if you can just remember: God has a time. God has a purpose. And that's what's held me in the midst of my trials that I cannot share. God has a purpose. I think I will never see what I wanted to see but you know it's all right because I'm just looking at this life. I want God to

stamp eternity upon my eyes and that's what I have to stop and just come back to every time. God, forgive me. I'm looking at this life. I'm looking at the things that are seen rather than the things that are not seen. I'm looking at the things that are temporal rather than the things that are eternal. God, I will persevere. I know that You have a time. I know that You have a purpose and so all of that to come back to the middle of Saul's speech. And this is what he says in verse 19, **"For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safely? May the LORD therefore reward you with good in return for what you have done [for] me this day."** (1 SAMUEL 24:19) "[May God reward you with good]". He says, **"Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand."** (1 SAMUEL 24:20) Now that is an awesome statement and that is the first time that you have heard Saul make that statement. Listen to me, Beloved. When you're in the midst of a trial, when you're wandering around in the wilderness, God is there to deliver you. But also God is there to show those that are causing this wilderness situation, those people that are not walking as they ought to be those people that are not being what they should be and what God created them to be which was in His image they're marring the image of God. But God when you live the way you're supposed to live, then God is showing those that are watching that's the way you're not supposed to live and so those people see you living and walking with God in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation in the midst of a difficult situation, in the midst of an arena, as Romans 8 says, that [we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. We are put to death all day long yet in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer.] (PARAPHRASE Romans 8:36-37) They're seeing you be more than a conqueror. And you're more than a conqueror. You're an overcomer and this is the victory as 1 John says, **"that...overcome[s] the world [even] our faith."** (1 JOHN 5:4) You're walking by faith; they're walking by sight. You've got eternity in your vision and they have today and tomorrow, this life, in their vision. And so he

says, “...You will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.” (1 SAMUEL 24:20-21a) Now listen to the king beg. “So now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants...,” and it’s literally my seed after me, ‘...and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s household.” (1 SAMUEL 24:21)

In other words, don’t obliterate all my descendants. Don’t slaughter them when you come to the throne. Don’t put my sons to death. Don’t put my grandsons to death. Don’t put my nieces and my nephews to death. Promise me that you won’t do that. Well it’s no need for Saul to say that to David because he’s already promised it to Jonathan. But, “David swore to Saul.”(1 SAMUEL 24:22) David said, [“That’s right. I will not do that. I make a promise.”] And you know what? It is so neat to watch this played out in the life of David. It is so awesome. “...And Saul went to his home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.”(1 SAMUEL 24:22)

They’re still in the wilderness. Now I want you to write something down in the margin. Next to verse 20, I want you to write down *David will be king* and next to that I want you to put *1 Samuel chapter 13, verse 14*. Listen to it. Samuel, the prophet, who is now dead; we saw that he died and this is before of course. He’s not raised from the dead. But he is speaking to Saul when Saul does not obey God and this is soon after Saul is made king. And this is what he says in verse 14, “But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.” (1 SAMUEL 13:14) In other words, God has sought out a man after His own heart. Saul has just acknowledged that that’s David. Saul has just acknowledged that he is going to be the next king over Israel and that his kingdom will be established. He’s announced that, two times now, Jonathan has come to him and assured him he’s going to be king over Israel. Saul has said the very same thing. This is the grace of God giving these promises to David because he’s still in the

stronghold. He's still in the wilderness. You say, "Will he never get out?" I'm sure he wonders the same thing. So what is the purpose of the wilderness? Why do we go through the wilderness? What is God accomplishing in that wilderness? Well that's what we're going to look at in the next program . But I can tell you that God loves you and He doesn't have you in this wilderness without a purpose. As I thought about wrapping all this up in your precept for life, God reminded me of 2 Corinthians chapter 4 (v. 7ff) and He says this: **"...We have this treasure..."** this is Christ, the Spirit of God inside of us, **"...in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but [we're] not crushed; [we're] perplexed..."**, not knowing what to do, **"...but [we're] not despairing..."**, we're not without hope. **"[We are] persecuted, but [we are] not forsaken; [we are] struck down, but [we are] not destroyed; We can get back up. Always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."** (2 CORINTHIANS 4: 7-10) It's this: **"I am crucified with Christ..."** I am dead. **"...Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life...I now live by...faith [in] the Son of God"** (GALATIANS 2:20 KJV) The Son of God who lived and died for me. So yes, you may be perplexed. Yes, you may be afflicted. Yes, you may be crushed. Yes, you may be cast down but that's not the end. God is going to bring you through it and God is going to bring you out of it because you are precious in His sight. You are beloved to Him.