

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

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Precept Ministries International

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

TITLE: Program 18 – Priests At Nob

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

There's nothing like a friend. There's nothing like a friend that will stay closer than a brother. I pray that you have a friend like that. But there's nothing worse than an enemy who is only interested in his own welfare, an enemy who is out to get you, an enemy who does not care what happens to you as long as things go well with him. We'll see both today in the Word of God.

PART ONE

O Beloved, if you didn't like Saul before, you're not going to like him at all now. I mean when you look at Saul and you watch what he does in today's lesson, I mean your blood is going to boil. You're going to be hot. And as you look at him what I want you to stop and think about is I want you to think about David versus Saul. I want you to watch these two men. I want you to see the hearts of both of them, because they are a study in contrasts.

And as we look at them you need to ask yourself, “Am I more like Saul or am I more like David? Am I a man that is worthy to have friends that would follow me and help me, or am I a man that is only concerned about myself?” Well you’re not only going to hate Saul in the right way; God says, [“Should you help those that are against the Lord and should you love those who hate the Lord?”] (2 Chronicles 19:2) So there are times when we look at characters and it is right for us, not in a sense of the humanity of hating a person, but to hate that behavior, to hate that lifestyle. It is all right to know that that there are absolutes, that there is a right and there is a wrong, and that’s what you’re going to see today in two men that are just absolutely men who makes your blood, as I said, boil. So are you ready to have your blood boil? Okay, well let’s open the Bible to 1 Samuel chapter 22 and let’s see what God has to say here. Now remember David has feigned madness before that Philistine king of Gath, King Achish, and now he has fled from him because he realizes that if he knew that David was in his right mind, he would consider David as an enemy. But it’s so interesting that you remember all these things. And I will tell you why; because you’re going to meet King Achish later. Now in chapter 22 of 1 Samuel, it says, **“So David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam; and when his brothers and all his father’s household heard of it, they went down there to him.” (22:1)** Well it is about time that those brothers got on board, isn’t it? Remember how his oldest brother, the one that Samuel thought surely was God’s choice because he was so tall and so handsome, remember how he got on his case when he went to the battle to watch and see what Goliath was doing and to listen to his threats. Well his brothers and his family have now come to him. They know that he’s in trouble. They know that Saul is after him and they have stayed close by him. Isn’t it wonderful when a family sticks together? You know if nothing else your children ought to know that your home is their safe haven and that your family is where they can find the security and the love and the acceptance that they need. I

remember my daddy used to say to me, he called me little sweetheart. But I remember he said to me, as I grew older, as I became a teenager, “Kay, I want you to know that no matter what happens to you, you can always come home.” I remember when my oldest son, who had been a prodigal son, when my oldest son finally got saved at the age of 37, I remember him standing in the kitchen and just telling me, “O mother, mother, thank you for not stopping praying for me. Thank you for continuing to love me.” He was home; he was home. And that was my goal. And that’s what needs to be our goal as families. We need to stick together. We need to know, you know, you could beat up on me and I’d fight you back. I could beat up on my brother and it was all right, but you couldn’t beat up on my brother cause he was brother and I’d beat up on you. Family, it’s so important. Well watch what happens in verse 2. It’s a very significant verse, although it doesn’t seem significant at the time. It says, **“Everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered...,” (22:2a)** around David. They heard where he was and they went to him because they knew his circumstances and they came to him because they were in similar circumstances. **“...And he became captain over them. Now there were about four hundred men with him.” (22:2b)** Four hundred men. Do you know this is the beginning of, this is the beginning of David’s valiant men. You’re going to read about them later on. These are men that have gravitated to David. They are men in desperate need and they need a home, and they need a family, and they need somewhere to go. This is what happens so often in gangs. A kid gets in a gang because he needs that family, because his mother is gone or his father is gone or the pressure is great and he wants to belong or she wants to belong, and so they get in the wrong crowd, they get in the wrong environment. And this is why it’s so important for you and me to protect the family, but also, listen carefully to open the door to others. Others need to come in your home. We need to be given to hospitality. Now this was

hospitality in a cave. But anyway, those caves were pretty nice. And when you go to Israel and you see them, they're huge and they're big and they are a place of refuge from the heat and from the storm and from the sand and the view out of the cave is absolutely beautiful in those wildernesses. But anyway, you and I need to open the doors of our home. You and I need to be given to hospitality. We need to bring others in. We need to bring the hurting in. We need to bring those that have needs in and we need to share with them. This is what the early church is all about and you can read about it in Acts. And it said that anyone who had a need was taken care of, so there was no one that wasn't taken care of and wasn't provided for. (Paraphrased, Acts 2:43-47) Well this is the beginning of David's mighty men. Remember, how many are there? There are 400 of them. I wrote it in the margin of my Bible, 400 men gathered to David. Now verse 3: **"And David went from there to Mizpah of Moab...."** (22:3a) Now if he went to Mizpah of Moab, as you look at the map in your study guide, and by the way, we do have a study guide and you can download it and you can just go to preceptsforlife.com, that's preceptsforlife.com. But as you look at the map you know that Moab is to the east of the Jordan River. And Moab is down opposite Jericho. Well he goes down to Moab. **"...And he said to the king of Moab, 'Please let my father and my mother come and stay with you until I know what God will do for me.'"** (22:3b) Now watch his trust in God again. Watch, **"...until I know what God will do for me."** When David and Jonathan separated Jonathan was saying, ["The Lord be with you."] (20:23,42) And when he told them that he was going to have to flee, ["The Lord has decided you have to flee."] (20:22) David is resting in God. David is resting in the sovereignty of God. And you're going to see a contrast with Saul. But you know what's so neat? When you stop and you mark this that he goes to Moab and you think about all of this and you remember the book of Ruth, what you know is that David came from the lineage of a Moabite woman and Boaz, a Jew. He had a Gentile mother.

His mother was Ruth; remember the story, the book of Ruth, Ruth and Naomi. Naomi was the Jewish mother-in-law and Ruth was a Gentile daughter. Well so he's going down there and he's saying to this king, "Take care of my family." Now remember, Ruth was his great-grandmother, Ruth was his great-grandmother. So he's not afraid of the Moabites. **"Then he left them with the king of Moab; and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. The prophet Gad said to David..."** (22:4-5a) All right, now a prophet is a person that is speaking for God. And there are false prophets and as we study the Word of God and as we go through it book-by-book and chapter-by-chapter and verse-by-verse you're going to learn so much and you're going to learn a lot about prophets. But what I do is I mark a *prophet* with like a megaphone, and I put a green megaphone around it and then I color it yellow because he's a spokesman for God and so yellow is my color for God. And says, **"The prophet Gad said to David, 'Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah.' So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth."** (22:5) Now we don't know exactly where that forest is, but we know that David went there out of obedience. **"Then Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered..."** (22:6a) I mean Saul has his scouts out. Saul is trying to find David. Saul wants to murder him. **"...Now Saul was sitting in Gibeah, under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all [of] his servants were standing around him. [And] Saul said to his servants who stood around him, 'Hear now, O Benjamites!..."** (22:6b-7a) Remember Saul's from the tribe of Benjamin. **"...Will the son of Jesse also give to all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make you [like] commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds?"** (22:7b) I mean, just imagine he's sitting there and he's got this spear in his hand and he's saying, ["I want to ask you a question. Would David give you fields and give you commands? Look at what I've done for you."] Because what is happening? I mean just the very

fact that he says this shows you that the thoughts of David are eating at him. He has murder in his heart, murder in his mind. This is where it begins and he cannot shake it. Watch people. Listen to what people say. “[Because out of the abundance of the mouth they speak.]” (Matthew 12:34, NKJV) So listen to what they say and you will hear what is in their heart. And as they listened they knew that this man cannot get over David. Now what is about to happen? Well, it’s not pretty, but you need to know it and we’ll talk about it when I come back.

PART TWO

Welcome back! We left Saul sitting under the tamarisk tree, spear in hand, as he’s talking about how he takes care of his men. He’s upset because he doesn’t have any good information on David. And so he’s sitting there under that tamarisk tree and he’s just talking out loud and he says, “[All of you], **all of you have conspired against me so...there’s no one who [to] disclose [this] to me when my son makes a covenant....**” (22:8a) Ahhh, he knows that Jonathan made a covenant with David. He knows that, and now he’s saying, [“And none of you, none of you told me about that. You’re all conspiring against me.”] And he says, “[he made] **a covenant with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you who is sorry for me [nor] discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me to lie in ambush, as it is this day.**” (22:8b) Duh! Is David lying in ambush for Saul? No. But Saul is saying that. Saul’s just flat out lying and Saul knows that he’s lying. But you know you can get so far away from God that a lie seems like truth and that hatred is not bad. I mean you just keep removing yourself and if you remove yourself from God and you remove yourself from the people of God, and you put yourself with the people of the world, then you’re going to think you’re all right, but you really aren’t. There was a man there that would come along side Saul and do a dastardly thing. Let’s look at it. **“Then Doeg...”** I told you Doeg the dog. **“Doeg the Edomite, who was**

standing by the servants of Saul....” (22:9a) Remember now, he was the chief of the shepherds. He was over all the shepherds that took care of all the livestock of Saul. And he says, **“...Who was standing by the servants of Saul, said, ‘I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.’ (22:9b)** All right, **“He inquired of the Lord for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.” (22:10)** Can’t you just see him kind of smiling as he watches Saul get this news? **“Then the king sent someone to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all [of] his father’s household, [and] the priests who were [at] in Nob; and all of them came to the king. [And] Saul said, ‘Listen now, son of Ahitub.’ And he answered, ‘Here I am, my lord.’ [And] Saul...said to him, ‘Why have you and the son of Jesse conspired against me, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he would rise up against me by lying in ambush as it [to] is this day?’” (22:11-13)** Now is that true? No it is not true. Now he knows that David is not lying in ambush. He knows that he’s seeking David, not David seeking him. **“Then Ahimelech answered the king and said, ‘And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, even the king’s son-in-law...?’”** He’s your son-in-law, **“...who is captain over your guard, and [he’s] honored in your house?” (22:14)** [What do you mean? What are you telling me, he’s lying in ambush? This is who David is. There’s no servant more faithful. He’s your son-in-law. He’s the captain over your guard. He’s honored in your house. He sits at the king’s table.] He said, **“Did I just begin to inquire of God for him today? Far be it from me! Do not let the king impute anything to his servant or to any of the household of my father, for your servant knows nothing at all [about] this whole affair. But the king said, ‘You shall surely die...you and all your father’s household!’” (22:15-16)** Is this a fair trial? Now it’s not. This is a king who is out of sorts with God and out of sorts with everyone else. This is jealousy that no one can stand against, and it is a hot

rage, and he wants this man dead. **“And the king said to the guards who were attending him, ‘Turn around and put the priests of the Lord to death, because their hand also is with David and because they knew that he was fleeing and did not reveal it to me.’ But the servants of the king [Yea!] were not willing to put forth their hands to attack the priests of the Lord.” (22:17)** O, how I admire those men, how I admire those men for refusing to obey the king, for laying, in a sense, their lives on the line at the hot temper of this man. **“Then the king said to Doeg, ‘You turn around and attack the priests.’ And Doeg...,”** the dog, remember, **“...the Edomite turned around and attacked the priests, and he killed that day eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. And he struck Nob the city of the priests with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and infants; oxen, donkeys, and sheep he struck with the edge of the sword.” (22:18-19)** Think of the massacre because one man is jealous, and this jealousy has so enraged him and so consumed him that he is going to put to death everyone and anything that gets in his way or anything that he suspects. His wrath goes far beyond his reason. And that’s what you see so many times. This is a man that you don’t want to be around. This is a man that you don’t want to be a friend with. This is a man who is playing the fool. This is a man who is living in the flesh. And it says this in verse 20: **“But one...son named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. [And] Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord. Then David said to Abiathar, ‘I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have brought about the death of every person in your father’s household. Stay with me; [and] don’t be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life, [and] you are safe with me.” (22:20-23)** And Abiathar would be safe with David. Contrast the two men. David moves according to the covenant. David moves according to the command of the Lord. David is a man who is seeking God’s own heart. David could have taken his 400 men and gone, gone after Saul. David knew

1 SAMUEL, PART 2 (WHO ARE YOU MOST LIKE – SAUL OR DAVID?)

PROGRAM 18 (#911028)

WEEK 4 (911306)

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that he was to be the next king. And David, in a sense, could have preempted the timing of God. But he did not. David was not in a rush. David was going to let God bring about the circumstances that would bring him to the throne. And yet, what do you see about Saul? You see a man that is hell-bent. You see a man that is intent on destroying David. You see that anger overtaking him and that jealousy flooding him and you see him trying to get rid of David and trying to get rid of anybody that is associated with him. He even tried to kill his own son. O Beloved, read the book of Proverbs. Read what Proverbs says about the foolish man. Read what Proverbs says about the angry man and learn to stay away from them. Learn to choose your friends, and choose a friend that will stick closer than a brother. That's what David had in Jonathan. He had a friend that would stick closer than his brother. And learn Beloved, to open your home. Learn to open your home to those that are longing for family, that are in need, that need someone to care for them. That's what God has done. He's opened His house and He has said, "Anyone that wants to come to Me, I will in no wise cast out." Have you come to Him? You can belong to the household of God.