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

TITLE: Program 27 – Perseverance Pays

TUESDAY

OPEN

Do you have friends, Beloved, that are going through a wilderness? That are in a situation where nothing seems to ever get better but only worse? They've gone to the doctor. You've prayed fervently. You find out that what the doctor said was worse than what they thought and you think how much more can they bear? How can they handle all of this? O Beloved, if you and I can only sense and know the reality of God's divine presence in the wilderness, we will make it and they will make it.

PART ONE

I am so excited, Beloved, about today's lesson and the reason I'm excited about it is because we see perseverance in David. Perseverance is such an essential quality for the man of God, for the woman of God because God warns us that in this life we are going to have tribulation but He says, **"...be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."** (John 16:33b KJV) He left

us in the world but we're not to be of the world and He made us overcomers and it says, **"...this is the victory that overcome[s] the world even our faith."** (1 John 5:4b) So faith is persevering in what you believe. It's hanging on. It's not letting go. I mean it is grabbing a hold like you've seen those cats in posters and they're hanging on like this and it says, "Hangeth Thou in there," and the little kitten's hanging in there but you can tell that there is a look of desperation on that kittens face. Well there may be a look of desperation on your face but, Beloved, persevere. Right now I am going through some situations with very, very dear and close friends and the news only gets worse and worse and worse and I was talking to one of them dear, dear brother and and I was saying, "You know, I cannot understand why God hasn't delivered you. I can't understand why God hasn't removed the pain. I can't understand why you're going through all of this because we have prayed so fervently and so passionately and we believe God but God has allowed you to suffer. But I want you to know, my friend, if you suffer all the way into stepping into eternity, you have suffered for the sake of the body of Jesus Christ. You have persevered because we have seen the sufficiency of His grace. We have seen His **"...power perfected in weakness..."** (2 Corinthians 12:9b) as Paul says and I thank you with all my being for doing that. Well let's go back to 1 Samuel chapter 25 because I didn't quite finish the chapter. When we look at Abigail married to Nabal, a fool. This is a woman that persevered. This is a woman who knew that she did not have grounds for divorce. This is a woman who persevered even though she was married to a man who disappointed her time and time and time again. You know it's one thing to be of good understanding. It's one thing to be intelligent and to be attractive. It is another thing to be married to a man who is a fool and who lives in his folly who is, as his servants described him, a worthless man. And yet I admire this woman so much because she persevered. And her perseverance paid off and I've just got to let you know that God will reward you for your perseverance. Perseverance

brings hope, **“and hope does not disappoint....” (Romans 5:5a)** And what you see is this woman who was married to a fool, all of a sudden God puts the fool to death and it says God did it and I want you to see it in verse 39. **“About ten days later...,”** I’m in 1 Samuel 25, verse 38, **“About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.” (1 Samuel 25:38)** God moved. God rescued. God avenges and you and I can trust Him and if He does not remove, if He does not strike your fool dead or your fool doesn’t walk away from you in his folly and set you free, as 1 Corinthians 7 (v.15) says, then you can know this. That God’s grace is sufficient and you are to persevere. So Abigail went from being married to a fool to being married to the future king of Israel. I mean she went from a fool to a wise man. A wise man who was, yes, living in the wilderness. She’s going to walk through the wilderness with him because the wilderness is not over. That journey is not over and it’s like things are about to get worse. Well let’s look at it. It says in verse 43. **“David had also taken Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both became his wives.” (1 Samuel 25:43)** So what I have in the margin of my Bible and of course I have a wide margin cause I have the best Bible in the world which is *The Inductive Study Bible*, I have David’s wives. David marries Abigail and then I put David is also married to Ahinoam and then you find out something else and this is very important for you to remember as you go into 2 Samuel. In verse 44 it says, **“Now Saul had given Michal his daughter, David’s wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim.” (1 Samuel 25:44)** What happened? Here was this woman that loved David dearly and yet she protected him and David had to flee and David went into the wilderness. And so Saul, angry with David, takes David’s wife which is wrong because there’s no divorce. There’s nothing. It’s just David has become his enemy and he gives his daughter to this other man. All right now, chapter 26. **“Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, ‘Is...David [not] hiding on the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon?’” (1 Samuel 26:1)** And you’ve got to know, don’t ever

ever try to imitate me in the way I pronounce these words because I am not good. I only know that when I said Abiygayil that's the way they pronounce it in Hebrew or Abigail and you take a *B* and they make it a *V* or they take a *V* and they make it a *B* and so I knew what I was doing there but I don't know what I'm doing here. Verse 2, **"So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men...to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph."** (1 Samuel 26:2) You say, "Wait a minute. What is going on?" The last time that we saw Saul what Saul had said is Saul had asked David's forgiveness because David could have killed him. Remember, David cut off his robe when Saul went into the cave to relieve himself and the last words that we heard out of Saul's mouth in respect to David was in 1 Samuel chapter 24 when in verse 20 he says, **"Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. So now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants...,**" my seed, **"...after me and that you will not destroy my name from my father's household."** (1 Samuel 24:20-21) And it says, **"David swore to Saul...."** (1 Samuel 24:22a) Well now David had already made that pact with Jonathan but of course, Saul doesn't know it. And, **"David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold."** (1 Samuel 24:22) David stayed in the wilderness. Saul went home. What on earth is he doing back after he says, "I want you to get this. I don't want you to miss it." He has said to David, "I know that you're going to be king. I know that the Lord is going to establish the kingdom in your hand. I know that you're a better man," and this is what he says in the verses before this, "a better man than me." So what on earth is going on? Well you don't see Saul persevering in righteousness. You see Saul being spared death by David and God in that is like going and saying, "Wake up, wake up! Look at what I'm doing for you. Look at how I have protected your life." You never see Saul having a godly sorrow that leads to repentance. Instead here he's

back. He's back with 3,000 men. Now remember David only has the the highest number that we have heard for David is 600 men. So it says, **"Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness...."** (1 Samuel 26:3a) And that's very important and you want to double underline it again because it is a geographical reference. You know what? My face is still stinging from slapping myself and I think you know, Saul should still be stinging from getting a slap from God and he's not. And it says, **"When he saw that Saul [had come] after him into the wilderness, [and] David sent out spies, and he knew that Saul was definitely coming."** (1 Samuel 26:3b-4) It's once again. Oh! Oh! Is this not going to pass? Is this not going to be over? Is it again and again and again and he's coming with 3,000 men? I mean he sends out spies and he gets the news and the news isn't good and yet what does David do? David perseveres. You watch this man persevere and remember this: when you're in the wilderness because God is with you because as Philippians 4 says, **"The Lord is at hand then you can persevere."** It says, **"David then arose and came to the place where Saul had camped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army; and Saul was lying in the circle of the camp, and the people were camped around him. Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, saying, 'Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?' And Abishai said, 'I will go down with you.'"** (1 Samuel 26:5-6) You say, "Where did these guys come from? We haven't heard those names before?" I'm so proud of you because you've been studying 1 Samuel and you haven't heard a lot of those names, have you? And you've recognized that you have not heard them. Now remember if you went to preceptsforlife.com which is our website and you downloaded the study guide, one of the things I told you in the study guide is make yourself a glossary. Put down the characters as you meet them and who they are because these characters that we just talked

about Abishai, Ahimelech and Joab are all going to show up more and they're going to become more and more prominent in David's life. And so you want to know who they are. So what we're going to do is we're going to stop for a minute and we're going to look at who they are because this is the first mention of Abishai. This is the first mention of Joab and this is the first mention of Zeruiah. You say, "Well if this is the first mention of them, then how do we know who they are?" Well I'll tell you when I come back.

PART TWO

I just love the way the Word of God is put together. I just love it! And I just see the importance of what Paul said when Paul was getting ready to go to Jerusalem where he would be imprisoned. He gathered the elders from Ephesus. He gathered them at Miletus and this is what he said. He said to them, **"...I have not shunned [or shirked] [from declaring to] you [the whole] counsel of God."** (Acts 20:27 KJV) This is a big book and yet it's God's words and God expects you and me to know them and that's why this program exists and I want to thank everyone of you that has been fed by this program and is fulfilling Galatians 6 in helping those that feed you and teach you the Word. And I want to thank you and I want you to know that your investment in this ministry in enabling us to teach this book all around the world. Not only on radio and not only in television and not only on the internet but also face to face. We are training and raising up leaders in 121 countries and in 66 languages. We are in the Arabic language reaching that Muslim world for Jesus Christ so that they can know the Word of God not just the Koran but so they can know this Holy Book which is God's book. You are helping us do this. You're making such an investment and I thank you so very much. All right now, let's get some return on that investment. How do we know if this is the first time that someone shows up in the Word of God and we don't even know who they are, how do we know? Well God has written a book called 1 Chronicles and by the way 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and

2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles were all like Samuel was one book, Kings was another book, Chronicles was another book. Chronicles was written after the children of Israel went in to the Babylonians captivity and it is the account of the annals of the days. And and it opens up and you are reading it and you're going, "Oh my gosh, this is boring!" Especially if you just pull Chronicles out of the Word of God and start to read it because the first chapters are this is so-and-so and this was the family of and this was the family of and it's the account and the annals of the days but when you really dig in you find out hey, this is valuable. I know where these people came from. And if you're going to appreciate these people, you have to know where they came from. So let's look at it. You've written down if you've been studying along with me the names of these people. Now let's see what we can learn about them. Well in 1 Chronicles chapter 2, verse 13 in the middle of all this boredom, and by the way you can read that **"Abigail bore Amasa, and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite."** (1 **Chronicles 2:17**) I mean it's so neat. You see these people and all of a sudden when you know the Word of God you say, "Oh! I know who you are." All right, so 1 Chronicles chapter 2 and we want to look at verse 13. Now watch: **"And Jesse became the father of Eliab his firstborn...."** Well we know who Eliab was; he's the tall handsome one and God said to him, ["Look, Samuel, he's not the one. You're looking on the outside. I'll look at the heart."] (PARAPHRASE 1 Samuel 16:7) We know that Eliab is the one that got after David and said when he came to see the war with Goliath, ["You're not tending the sheep like you ought to be."] (PARAPHRASE 1 Samuel 16:28b) And so we know that that's his older brother, the first born, and **"...then Abinadab the second, [and] Shimea the third."** (1 **Chronicles 2:13b**) And so we know these people. And then it goes on to say, **"Nethanel the fourth...."** (1 **Chronicles 2:14a**) And then it gives all the list and you come down to verse 16 and it says, **"And their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. And the three sons of Zeruiah were**

Abshai, Joab and Asahel.” (1 Chronicles 2:16) Now we’ll leave the Abigail off because that’s not the same Abigail that we want to look at right now but let’s just look. One of David’s sister’s names was Zeruih. All right, she had three sons. This is what’s significant. One was Abishai and that’s the one that’s mentioned right here in 1 Samuel chapter 26. Another one was Joab and he’s mentioned there too and Asahel is mentioned later on. So what you want to do is you want to write those scriptures down and you want to know that Zeruih is the mother of Joab she is the mother also of Abishai and these are two of three brothers so these are David’s nephews. They’re David’s nephews because they’re the sons of his sister. All right so they’ve gathered around. Now where did this happen? Well remember when David fled from Saul and he went into the wilderness his family came down to him. So his sisters came down and they brought the children down. Do you see how it all fits together? Isn’t it neat? You say, “But how does it help me tomorrow?” (*laughs*) Well in this in particular won’t help you tomorrow and it won’t help you today but if God told you about it then you need to know it because it’s going to help you one time or another. So let’s get the knowledge under our belt and let’s move on in verse 7. **“So David and Abishai came to the people by night....” (1 Samuel 26:7)** Now listen. He sees Saul in the cave. He sees Saul lying down. He sees the place where where he is camped and he’s circling the camp. And, **“So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner....,” (1 Samuel 26:7)** Now Abner is the son of Ner. We’ll go into Abner later but Abner is his general, okay? **“...And Abner and the people were lying around him.” (1 Samuel 26:7b)** You know it’s just like the old fashioned cowboy movies where they’re traveling across to go to the west and where they stop and they put they’re wagons in a circle and the people get on the inside and it’s protection against the Indians. And well this is what’s happened. And so David sees them and he sees Abner laying there

beside him. **“Then Abishai said to David, ‘Today, God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him [a] second time.’” (1 Samuel 26:8)** In other words I will do the job. I will do it in one fell swoop, one fell jab and it will be accomplished. **“But David said to Abishai, ‘Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’S anointed and be without guilt?’”(1 Samuel 26:9)** Who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’S anointed? What do you see in this man? I see perseverance. I see a man that continues to trust God even when here is Saul with 3,000 men camped all around in this camp and David can see them and David might be able to take him out. Could David take him out? Let’s see. And, **“David...said, ‘As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go...into battle and perish.’”(1 Samuel 26:10)** Either God’s just going to do something and strike him dead or he’s going to go into battle and perish or his day is going to come when he just dies a natural death. **“The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed; but now please take the spear that’s at his head and the jug of water, and let’s go.” (1 Samuel 26:11)** In other words he says, “Take the spear.” He has something in mind. What does he have in mind? Well if you’re studying along with me, you’re going to find out before the next program. If not, we’re going to find out in the next program. But what does God want to say to you today, Beloved? What is His precept that He wants you to live by? And that is **“...let endurance have its perfect [work], that you [might] be perfect and complete, lacking...nothing.” (James 1:4)** That’s what my friends are showing me as they die.