

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

TITLE: Program 19 – Trust In The Lord

THURSDAY

OPEN

Are you in a quandary, my friend? Do you not know what to do? You don't whether you should say yes, or whether you should say no, whether you should buy the house, or whether you should rent, what you should do with the money, what you should do with your car, what you should do with your job. I mean life can be full of questions. Where do you go? How do you handle them? Well we'll look at it today as we look at God's precepts for life.

PART ONE

Isn't the Word of God wonderful Beloved? Do you realize that when you and I open this Book and study the words we are studying the very words of God? These are the words that have come out of the mouth of God, that have been divinely recorded by men so that you and I might know His precepts, so that we might get understanding and so that we might hate every false

way. Because a false way leads to destruction, but truth leads to life, and that's what we're doing. We're studying the Word of God. Well we have come to 1 Samuel chapter 23 and in 1 Samuel chapter 23 remember David is fleeing from Saul. Saul has just had Doeg the Edomite put to death Ahimelech and 84 priests and all the city of Nob, they've all been killed because Saul thinks that they have sided with David. Saul has believed a lie. Saul could have known the truth if he had only gone to God and asked God, "God, show me what's happening. God, show me what to do." If only he had inquired of God, but he didn't inquire of God. He simply ordered the death of those people. Do you realize that when Saul stands at the great white throne judgment before God that Saul is going to have the blood of all those people on his hands? And he didn't have to have that; if only he had inquired of God, if only he had listened to God, if only he had believed God, if only he had obeyed God. O Beloved, you don't realize what happens to us when we do not seek the counsel of the Lord, when we lean to our own understanding, when we do not acknowledge God in all of our ways, but we just try and figure out life ourselves, we end up in a terrible mess. As you look at David, as you look at Saul there's a contrast between a man who walks by the Spirit and a man who lives by his flesh. And how does a man walk by the Spirit? And how does he know what to do? Well we see it so clearly in 1 Samuel chapter 23. Let's look at it. **"Then they told David, saying, 'Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are plundering the threshing floors.'" (23:1)** Now Keilah or Keilah is about 18 miles southwest of Jerusalem. So it's not far away. So this is a city now that belongs to the children of Israel. And the Philistines are fighting against the city and they're plundering the city and David knows how to conquer the Philistines. Is he going to go out in his own energy? Is he going to go out in his own strength? Now remember Saul is trying to find David because Saul wants to put him to death. And what David could do at this point is say, "Boy, I am so sorry that is happening, but I'm not going to go out there and

risk my neck. He could figure it out with his own reasoning. He could lean to his own understanding, but he doesn't do that. Watch what David does. It says, **“So David inquired of the Lord....”** David has been given information, information that he needs to act on, information that he needs to either dismiss or take action on. And so what does he do? It says, **“...David inquired of the Lord....”** Now if you downloaded our study guide, if you went to preceptsforlife.com, and that's the way you get in touch with me and that's the way you communicate with me and that's the way that you can support this program so that we can continue to bring you this broadcast so that you can continue to grow; well you go to preceptsforlife.com. And if you downloaded the study guide you know that we told you in that study guide make sure that you mark this phrase. Now I colored it in yellow because he's inquiring of the Lord and I underlined it in red because it is very very critical. Red's my attention getter. So it says, **“So David inquired of the Lord, saying, ‘Shall I go and attack these Philistines?...’”** [“I've heard that they're attacking the city of Keilah and I want to know if I should go.”] **“And the Lord said to David, ‘Go and attack the Philistines and deliver Keilah.’ But David's men said to him, ‘Behold, we are afraid here in Judah.’** [“We're going to a city of Judah.”] **“How much more...if we go to Keilah against the ranks of the Philistines?” (23:2-3)** [“What's going to happen to us? I mean we're sitting in fear where we are now. Now we're going to get closer to the Philistines.”] So what does David have? David has two conflicting presentations of what he ought to do, two different opportunities. He inquires of God and God says, “Go.” The men are saying, “No, we are scared to death.” Now who is David going to listen to? Well David is a wise man. And David is walking by the Spirit so he's not going to walk by the flesh, so he's going to ask God and whatever God says, he's going to do. But now watch what happens. **“Then David inquired of the Lord once more....”** “Okay, I've heard what these guys are saying, my 400 valiant men. I know that they are not acting valiantly now. I know that

they're scared to death for their lives. I know that I'm their captain. Maybe I better go back and ask God again." You know it's never wrong to go back and ask God again. Paul tells us that he asked God three times to remove the thorn in his flesh and finally God said to him, and it's in the perfect tense basically, "[No, I'm not going to take it away]. ...**My grace is sufficient....**" (2 Corinthians 12:8-9) But Paul went to Him three times. Jesus, three times Jesus said to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane, "[If it's possible, take this cup from Me], ...**nevertheless, not my will, but Thine, be done.**" "[If it's possible take this cup from Me], ...**nevertheless, not my will, but Thine, be done.**" (Luke 22:42, KJV) He said it three times. God understands the frailty of our flesh. God understands that we need to know that we know that we know that what we're going to do is God's will. And God delights when we come and ask Him what we are to do. In James it says, "[Don't say that you're going to this city or that city and make your plans. Say, 'If the Lord wills I will go.']"(James 4:13-15) We want to know the will of the Lord. So "...**David inquired of the Lord once more. And the Lord answered him and said, 'Arise, [and] go down to Keilah, for I [have given] the Philistines into your hand.'**" (23:4) Now David can move. Now David has confidence. So many times, so many times I find myself not know what to say "yes" to and not knowing what to say "no" to, because you get so many invitations and so many opportunities to serve the Lord, and which is of God? And I'm telling you there are times when I have not stopped and inquired of God. And I remember just crying out, "God, I did not inquire of You. God, I don't know if this is You or not, and I'm on this plane and this is where I'm headed and God, all I'm saying is, if it is not of You, have mercy on me. I'm coming to You according to Your character," because I forgot to inquire of Him. It's a good habit that when you get up in the morning to say, "God, let me be Your disciple. Let me speak for You. Let me be Your follower, so lead me, guide me, direct me. I want to please You. I'm going to have as my ambition, as 2nd

Corinthians 5:9 says, to be pleasing to You. I want to please You whether I'm in this body or out of this body; I just want to be pleasing to you. Philippians, chapter 1, I want You to be exalted in my flesh. (v. 20) And so Father, You lead me, You guide me." Now if you start the day that way and you forget to pray when you have a decision, at least you've got that back up of having committed it to the Lord. But when things come to you; sometimes you know that you know because you're walking in the will of the Lord and you've committed your way unto the Lord and you know that it is God, but other times you don't know. And there are times when I have absolutely agonized, "God, what is Your message for these people?" I'm going to speak; I don't have pat messages. "What is Your message for this people?" I am a woman that is committed to teaching the Word of God. And many many speakers today don't open the Bible and take you through the Bible. And I'm committed to that and so I have to stand by my commitment because I'm convinced that people are [perishing for a lack of knowledge]. (Paraphrase, Hosea 4:6) But still, as I do that I stand there in fear and trembling because I think a lot of people just want stories. They just want their ears tickled. Thank you for listening to this program. Thank you for studying along with me. Thank you for wanting to know God's Word. Well let's get back to it. **"So David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines; and he led away their livestock and struck them with a great slaughter. Thus David delivered the inhabitants of Keilah. Now it came about, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech..."** and remember Ahimelech was the priest at Nob who Doeg the Edomite just put to death, **"...when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah...he came down with [the] ephod in his hand."** (23:5-6) God had a way of communicating with His people in those days. Now if you downloaded that study guide you know already what the ephod looks like, and you know about the ephod. But otherwise you may not know about it so let's just talk about it for a minute. The priest was given a breastplate and

that breastplate had stones in it, a stone for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. That breastpiece with those stones was attached to the ephod in a pouch, okay. Remember Saul, when he was mad at Ahimelech, what he said to him he says, “You inquired of God for him. You inquired of God for him.” Well did he inquire of God and how would he have inquired of God? It’s all wrapped up in the ephod, and we’ll talk about it in just a minute after this important announcement.

PART TWO

Well, just before the break we were talking about that linen ephod that Abiathar brought with him. What is this ephod? Next to verse 6 I want you to write Exodus chapter 28:28-30. So when we go to Exodus chapter 28 and we look at this ephod, this is what he says. He says in verse 27 is where I’m going to start. **“You shall make two rings of gold and put them on the bottom of the two shoulder pieces of the ephod, on the front...close to the place where it is joined, above the skillfully woven band of the ephod. They shall bind the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord, so that it will be on the skillfully woven band of the ephod, and...the breastpiece will not come loose from the ephod. [And] Aaron shall carry the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment....” (Exodus 28:27-29a)** It’s a breastpiece of judgment. It’s not to say, “You’re judged and you’re guilty, you’re condemned.” But it’s a breastpiece of judgment so that you can have the right answer for the right question and so that you can know what to do. So he says, **“[He] shall carry the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment over his heart when he enters the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually. You shall put in the breastpiece of judgment....”** now catch this, **“the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the Lord; and Aaron shall carry the judgment of the sons of Israel over**

his heart before the Lord continually.” (Exodus 28:29-30) Now we don’t know exactly about the Urim and the Thummim, but we know that the Urim and the Thummim were in there in that breastpiece. And what happened was when they inquired of the Lord it was like God would light up the stones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel and He would give them direction through the Urim and the Thummim on the breastpiece that was on the linen ephod. You got it? Okay. Now, Abiathar brings this to David when he flees, okay, and it’s very very important. And you see the importance of the ephod, and if you’ve been studying with me earlier in Samuel, you see that also. Well let’s look and see what it says. In verse 6, **“Now it came about, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand. When it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah, Saul said, ‘God has delivered him into my hand, for he shut himself in by entering a city with double gates and bars.’” (23:6-7)** “[He’s in Keilah and God has delivered him into my hand.]” I mean the arrogance of this man, the arrogance. He thinks that he’s got David trapped now because he’s in this city and God has done it, when he knows that David is to be the next king over Israel, when he knows that he is the one that is filled with jealousy and anger and hatred towards David. **“So Saul summoned all the people for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men. Now David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, ‘Bring the ephod here.’ Then David said, ‘O Lord God of Israel...’” (23:8-10a)** Now Abiathar is standing there with the ephod, probably has it on, has the Urim and the Thummim, and he says, **“...O Lord God of Israel, Your servant has heard for certain that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah to destroy the city on my account. Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as Your servant has heard?...” (23:10b-11a)** In other words, [“This is what I’ve heard. I’ve heard that Saul is coming, but God, I’m not going to live just by the hearing of my ears. I want to know what You are going to

tell me. I need to inquire not just of man and not just of a rumor of man, but God what are you saying?”] And he says, “[Tell], **I pray tell Your servant. And the Lord said, ‘He will come down.’” (23:11b)** Now how did He say that? He said it through this breastpiece. He said it through this ephod. They’re consulting the ephod. It is all right. It is something that God has ordained. This is not like consulting a witch. It is going to God God’s way. You say, “Give me an ephod. Bring it on. I need an ephod.” No you don’t, Beloved. You see, David didn’t have the Word of God like you and I have it. David was part of the creation of the Word of God. He didn’t have the whole counsel of God. This is why we’re studying the Bible. This is why the Old Testament is so important so you get to know God. So this gives us counsel. This shows us what is right and wrong. This shows us what is truth and what is a lie. This and the Spirit of God inside of you, Beloved, that’s your ephod so to speak. That’s how you inquire of God. You call upon God. You call upon His name. [“If any man let’s lacks wisdom, let him ask of God and He will give to him liberally...But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering; for he who wavers is like a wave of the sea tossed to and fro. And that double-minded man’s not going to receive anything.”] (James 1:5-8, Paraphrase/Mix of translations, see NKJV) God wants you to know His will. God wants you to inquire of Him. God wants to solve your problems. He wants to tell you what to buy and what not to buy, where to go, what not to go, what job to take, what friends to have. He wants to do that. And so David inquired of Him. “[And] **then David said...**” because He only answered one thing. He said, [“Saul’s coming down.”] **Then David said, ‘Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?...**” (23:12a) In other words, “We just delivered this city. But is this city then in turn going to turn us over to Saul?” **“And the Lord [answered and] said, ‘They will surrender you.’” (23:12b)** Now it would be logical to think that the men would not do that because David had delivered them, but remember Saul is the king, and they’re probably fearing Saul and his army

more. It doesn't matter. David knows exactly what to do, because David has inquired of the Lord. What does God want you to do? He wants you to make it your habit, Beloved, to stay in constant communication with Him. That's why He says, **"Pray without ceasing."** (1 Thessalonians 5:17) What is prayer? It's talking to God. It's praising Him. It's worshipping Him. It's telling Him what you need. It's asking Him to cleanse you. But it's also asking Him to direct you. Proverbs 3 says this, **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not [don't lean] on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He [will] direct your paths."**

(Proverbs 3:5-6, NKJV) In other words, you trust God. And when you trust God you've got to know that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. You need to trust God. God wants you to know His will. So you trust in Him and you trust in Him with all your heart. You're not to have a divided heart. You're to be single-minded. You are to be fully convinced and fully persuaded that God is God and therefore because He's God you're going to trust in Him with all your heart. Then you're not going to lean to your own understanding. You're going to acknowledge Him in all your ways, all your ways. So if you're confused, if you're perplexed, then pause. Be still. Know that He is God. Give yourself time. Turn off everything and give yourself time to be alone with God in His Word, and say, "God, speak to me by Your Spirit. Tell me what to do and I will do it. And it'll always be in accord with the Word."