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## **1 SAMUEL 23:1-29**

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### **GETTING STARTED...**

From a young age when our siblings eat the last slice of cake we experience betrayal. Being overlooked for sports teams on the playground to being cut out of business deals we will face people who do not act the way they should. But the question for us to consider is what we will do in return. The natural impulse is to make people pay for their crimes, to exact revenge or at least retaliation on one another. Yet the Bible calls us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. But how can we do that? As we continue this series, David gives us a real example of what it means to show God's mercy in the face of betrayal. But even more than that, he shows us how we can do that, by trusting in God's justice and his sovereignty over all things. When we keep in mind the fact that God is the one in control, we can show God's love while allowing God to hold everything in his perfect justice.

### **LENT GUIDE**

The fourth week of Lent we are marking by fasting from Shopping. In our culture, excess is the expectation. We expect that we will be surrounded by luxuries and we can make looking for more a habit. In this routine we need to be reminded that all that we have and need comes from God. By avoiding unnecessary shopping, we are placing our trust that God can provide all we need, and we can be generous as He is generous.

During this week we encourage you to avoid any unnecessary purchases or scrolling through Amazon and Marketplace. Instead, seek out ways to be generous with what you have to others this week and give freely.

Readings: Matthew 6:27-33, 2 Corinthians 8:3-7, Philippians 4:11-13

### **READ THE TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 23:1-29**

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Now they told David, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors." <sup>2</sup> Therefore David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and

attack these Philistines?" And the Lord said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah." <sup>3</sup> But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" <sup>4</sup> Then David inquired of the Lord again. And the Lord answered him, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand." <sup>5</sup> And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

<sup>6</sup> When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand. <sup>7</sup> Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, "God has given him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars." <sup>8</sup> And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. <sup>9</sup> David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." <sup>10</sup> Then David said, "O Lord, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. <sup>11</sup> Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O Lord, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the Lord said, "He will come down." <sup>12</sup> Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the Lord said, "They will surrender you." <sup>13</sup> Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition. <sup>14</sup> And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.

<sup>15</sup> David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. <sup>16</sup> And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this." <sup>18</sup> And the two of them made a covenant before the Lord. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.

<sup>19</sup> Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon? <sup>20</sup> Now come down, O king, according to all your heart's desire to come down, and our part shall be to surrender him into the king's hand." <sup>21</sup> And Saul said, "May you be blessed by the Lord, for you have had compassion on me. <sup>22</sup> Go, make yet more sure. Know and see the place where his foot is, and who has seen him there, for it is told me that he is very cunning. <sup>23</sup> See therefore and take note of all the lurking places where he hides, and come back to me with sure information. Then I will go with you. And if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah." <sup>24</sup> And they arose and went to Ziph ahead of Saul.

Now David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon. <sup>25</sup> And Saul and his men went to seek him. And David was told, so he went down to the rock and lived in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon. <sup>26</sup> Saul went on one

side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. And David was hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them, <sup>27</sup> a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid against the land." <sup>28</sup> So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went against the Philistines. Therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape. <sup>29</sup> And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.

### UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. How many times does God specifically direct David in this passage? What does God all tell David to do and why?
2. Read Psalm 54 which is written about this story. How does David respond to those who have betrayed him?

### REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

### APPLYING THE POINT

5. Without getting lost in too many details, share a time when you have felt
6. How does seeing God's justice help us to not exact revenge on others? How does the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross help us put our revenge into perspective?
7. How does seeing God's sovereignty remind us to trust in God's call to show mercy above our own? How can we keep that in mind? What are we to practically do when others hurt us?

### PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



## How to Use this Guide

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This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*