

Great Differences: Lessons from David & Solomon

This week – The difference in behaviour between David, a believer, and Saul, an unbeliever.

**“I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me. He shall send from Heaven, and save me.” Psalm 57v2,3.**

**Bible Readings for this week:**

*(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)*

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	1 Samuel 24v1-22 (David spares Saul’s life)	
Monday	1 Samuel 26v1-12 (David spares Saul’s life again)	
Tuesday	1 Samuel 26v13-25 (David’s life in danger from Saul)	
Wednesday	Psalm 57 (David, in the cave, trusts in the LORD)	
Thursday	Psalm 142 & 124 (When in need cry out to God)	
Friday	Psalm 18v1-29 (The LORD is my rock, my fortress)	
Saturday	Psalm 18v30-50 (As for God, His way is perfect)	

**Important Thought for us Today:** God does not promise a Christian a comfortable and easy life. Alongside the joy of believing, knowing sins forgiven, and the promise of eternal life, Christians will face difficulties and trials in life which will test their faith, sometimes to the extreme. **Why does God allow this?** Sometimes, a sin may need to be dealt with. So, the Lord, in love, must discipline His child. Most often, though, God is reducing a Christian’s love for this world; making them look toward Heaven; building up their faith in utter dependence on Him alone; that He will provide and overrule, even in the most awful situations. He makes His Word, worship, and work the most important things in a Christian’s life. **So, always trust God** – remembering that His will for our lives is always, ultimately, in our best interest, and to His Eternal glory. **See 1 Corinthians 10v2-3.**

**Hymn 124, Based on Psalm 124 - David’s testifies to his complete trust in the LORD.**

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| 1. Had not the Lord, my heart may cry,<br>Had not the Lord been on my side;<br>Had He not brought deliverance nigh;<br>Then must my helpless soul have died.   | 2. Had not the Lord been on my side,<br>I to this day enslaved would be,<br>Swallowed by sin’s relentless tide,<br>Destined to hell’s captivity.           |
| 3. Had not the Saviour loved so well,<br>My just deserts would o’er me roll.<br>Soon floods of wrath and depths of hell,<br>Would overwhelm my anguished soul. | 5. I’ll sing the Lord my Saviour’s praise,<br>Maker of all below, above;<br>Here and in Heaven my voice I’ll raise,<br>To speak His saving power and love. |

**Christians are Different - David Spares Saul’s Life, Twice. Saul’s Character Deteriorated whilst David became Christ-like.**

- **Saul Pursues David with Hatred In His Heart.**
    - God rejected sinful Saul as King; frustration and bitterness consumes Saul.
    - Saul became jealous of godly David realising he was God’s chosen successor.
    - David loyally played music to soothe Saul; twice Saul threw a javelin at him.
    - David fled to the hills and caves for his life as Saul searched to kill him.
  - **David’s First Opportunity for Revenge – 1 Samuel 24.**
    - **To kill or not to kill?** Saul had entered the same cave that David and his few men were hiding in. David’s men said, **“God has given Saul into our hands.”**
      - **The Unbeliever’s View – ‘What an opportunity!** My enemy is out to kill me, he has fallen into my hands; Surely, I can now kill him and be rid of him.’
      - **The Believer’s View – “No! I cannot kill God’s anointed.”** A higher principle ruled David’s heart. So, while Saul slept, David cut off a piece of his garment and hid in the back of the cave until Saul awoke and left the cave. David proved his mercy to Saul, showing that he did not want to kill him.
- Saul did not respond in love to David’s act of mercy. He continued in hatred.**
- **David Spares Saul’s Life Again – 1 Samuel 26.**
    - **David finds Saul asleep** – His men said, **“God has given Saul into our hands.”** **“No!”** David takes Saul’s spear and water jug to show he had been there.
    - David believed that God would, in His time, bring Saul’s life to its end.
    - Saul expresses sorrow, but his short-lived friendliness turned again to hate.
  - **What Rules Do We Follow? Which Attitude Will We Take?**
    - **That of Saul, “I will, and can, do just as I want.” But this has many drawbacks:** -
      - ◇ **Mindless** - No thought of right or wrong, acting just as the mood takes you.
      - ◇ **Arrogant** – Assumes there are no rules. Tossing aside the wisdom of God’s Word.
      - ◇ **Short-sighted** - If everyone acted this way life would become an impossible mess.
      - ◇ **Dangerous** – Gambling that there is no God, and no Judgement to come.
    - **That of David, “I must do that which pleases God, and complies with His Law”:** -
      - ◇ **Thoughtful** - Considering right and wrong; Doing only that which is right.
      - ◇ **Humble** – Trusting in God’s Sovereign over-ruling; He doeth all things well.
      - ◇ **Patient** – Prepared to wait God’s timing; Content for God’s plan to work out.
      - ◇ **Faithful** – Growing in spiritual stature through sincere, trusting, obedience.

**The Apostle Paul wrote about the Christian attitude, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Philipians 4v8. Jesus said, “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14v15.**