

The Rock of Escape

By the time we've reached 1 Samuel 23, the following has occurred:

- Ch. 8-10: Saul's role as new King.
- Ch. 11-12 Saul's early success.
- Ch. 13-15 Saul's disobedience and rejection
- Ch. 16-17 David's anointing & defeat of Goliath
- Ch. 18-20 David's connection to Saul's family and fleeing
- Ch. 21-22 David's fleeing to Nob, hiding among Philistines, and the cave of Adullam.

1 Samuel 23: The Rock of Escape

- **Vs. 1-5:** It's convenient, isn't it, for David to inquire of God what he should do next. Take note of the humanity of David's men. Even though God directly answered their question, they felt the need to double-check. If this world is "the matrix," it sure doesn't feel like it. We experience real fears, threats, and uncertainties. Also, it's good to remember that life brings different trials and tribulations. It's not the time to overthink everything. Why are the Philistines attacking Keilah? Is this from God? Probably not always good to say, "Why is this happening to us? Is this from God?" How will you know for sure? We deal with life as it comes.
- **Vs. 6-14:** This is interesting. Because everyone has their point of view. From Saul's point of view, the Lord had given David into his hands (though he knows better, according to 18:28; 23:17). David is asking for God's answer, but don't overlook the fact that he didn't ask if it was coming from God. In other words, David lived in a world where people could do bad things without God being behind it. Sometimes God is behind it, but not always. What did David do? He used the available information and made a decision. What was the outcome? It saved him from Saul's hand. This is also interesting, because there's Saul's decision. He made decisions regardless of available information. He inserted God's name when he should have left it out. We could say that God wasn't using Saul to pursue David. Could we also say God wasn't forcing David to make a certain move? He gave instructions, and David had to act accordingly. Yet, God was protecting David (vs. 14).
- **Vs. 15-29:** You can make the right decision and find yourself in the same situation, or another difficult situation later, and that doesn't mean you've done the wrong thing. It means you've done the best you can with the information before you.

So, let's consider:

- If you were in Keilah, would you have fled without hearing from God?
- If you were Saul, would you pursue David?

Notice how the two are ENTIRELY different.

- You are, in many ways, in a David position but without a direct line to God. Isn't the Bible the direct line? Yes and no. God has given direct guidance on many things (drunkenness), and then there are other decisions you have to make based on the totality of scripture ("things like these").
 - Should I take this job?
 - Should we make this move?

- Should I address this or not?
- Should I give this marriage advice?
- You are, in many ways, in a Saul position with direct instruction.
 - Should Saul have been pursuing David?
 - Should you take the new job if it takes you away from your family?
 - Should you make a move that would hurt your family's spiritual growth?
 - Should you ignore a very clear and dangerous situation?
 - Should you give that marriage advice when you know it's contrary to God's law?
- Sometimes life looks like this:
 - Proverbs 26:4-5 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.
 - Proverbs 26:17 Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears.
 - Proverbs 26:21 As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.
 - There's a difference between "should I entertain a date with this person" and "should I marry them?"
 - There's a difference between "is this a wise situation to be in" and "should we have done that together?"
 - There's a difference between "should I be patient while this person puts away the flesh" and "should I have been at the bar with them?"
- Some things God is very clear and specific about: **follow them**.
- Some things God has given us principles: do the best you can. Sometimes they'll work out, other times not. We work with the available information, pray, ask for counsel, and then move forward. But know this: we sometimes worry about things God wouldn't have us stress over. We can make mountains out of molehills, as we say. Try to stay away from that, focus on what God has clearly and specifically mentioned, and trust that He will deliver you.