

Reading Schedule for November 6-12, 2017

I guess you could say that these chapters are about David running from Saul. Some of David's strongest Psalms are from this challenging season in his life, when the king of the land wanted to take his life. If you ever thought David was exempt from difficulty, you will realize after reading these chapters how challenging his life was as a young man. No one is exactly sure how long he was running from Saul, but it had to be for several years. I want you to notice how God protected him, even in the most difficult situations. This is where David built his trust in God's reliability, and would serve him well in years to come.

November 6 – 1 Samuel 22: "The king then ordered Doeg, 'You turn and strike down the priests.' So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod." (v.18) This is a vicious scene that shows Saul's insecurity. He suspected a conspiracy among Jonathan, David and the priests. His mental and emotional instability were at a peak level and he had strayed far from God. You remember that Samuel told the people that they would have to live with the consequences of a human king who could possibly do despicable things. This is the case in point. These deaths served to dramatize to the nation how a king could become an evil tyrant. How do you respond to such a selfish and insecure response? Why do you think God neglected to intervene?

November 7 – 1 Samuel 23: "'Don't be afraid,' he said. 'My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this.'" (v.17) If you ever wondered why I appreciate Jonathan so much, here is a very strong example that portrays his loyalty. This may be the last time David and Jonathan were together. As true friends, they were more than just companions who enjoyed each other's company. They had each other's back. They confided in each other with absolute trust. I have highlighted their friendship previously, and I see it lived out again. Jonathan had to be a great encouragement to David during these difficult days. A solid friend can be used by God to carry you through. How are you pursuing friendship? Would your friends call you loyal and trustworthy? Why or why not?

November 8 – 1 Samuel 24: "Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe." (v.5) I've always appreciated the sensitive conscience that David displays throughout his life. Of course it is connected to his respect of the king, but it also concerned doing the right thing. Again, we read in Psalms that David would confess his sins to the Lord with a repentant heart. David never took things into his own hands. He trusted God for the future. As a young man, he shows incredible restraint. Saul was in the way of David becoming king. But David would not do it on his own terms. He would allow God to work in God's way and in his time. Isn't it amazing that Saul would remain stubborn and continue to alienate David from his home?! It is easy to compare the life of David and the life of Saul and see how different they are. What stands out to you in this chapter?

November 9 – 1 Samuel 25: "When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground." (v.23) You are introduced to Abigail. Many people have been inspired to name their daughters by her name because she displayed such courage and servanthood. David is influenced by this woman, so much so that he changes his mind. He receives the blessing that she has for him so that he would not avenged her husband by killing him. There is a lot in this

story that you might highlight. I am drawn to the faith, courage and obedience of a woman named Abigail. What do you like about her? How do you respond to this story? Is there any way that God is speaking to you personally through it? How so?

November 10 – 1 Samuel 26: "So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the Lord had put them into a deep sleep." (v.12) David could have killed Saul, but by doing so he would have disobeyed God. Instead, he just showed that he could have killed the king, which was even more powerful and showed a great deal of restraint. This is the second time that David could have taken Saul's life, and instead honors the position of the king. In a way, it seems like Saul is softened by David's kindness. It wouldn't last, but it would seem very callous to cut down David in the midst of his gracious generosity towards Saul. Nonetheless, God protected David because he would become the king of Israel. That was God's plan, and nothing could get in the way. It may seem that things are going from bad to worse in your life and God is doing nothing about it. But our God is sovereign and he will accomplish his purposes in his way. Can you trust him? How does David's example affect your response?

November 11 – 1 Samuel 27: "When Achish asked, 'Where did you go raiding today?' David would say, 'Against the Negev of Judah' or 'Against the Negev of Jerahmeel' or 'Against the Negev of the Kenites.'" (v.10) This is not a true statement. David falsely reported his activities to the king. This is a confusing part in the story because it appears that David justified his strategy because he was dealing with a pagan king and was wanting to form the best possible relationship with the Philistines. One day the Philistines would be his enemy, and if they could negotiate peace, that would be better for everyone. This is another part of the story that has David seemingly manipulating the situation. But the Philistines were ruthless, and the king Achish was a godless man. It appears that David does not believe he is doing wrong in lying to an evil man. Rahab did the same thing when she hid the spies. Of course, that is an interesting topic. But I think I have focused on the main thing, that is David was honoring God, even though he was dishonoring a godless man. How do you respond to this complicated topic? What else do you notice in this chapter?

November 12 – 1 Samuel 28: "When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, 'Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!'" (v.12) I wanted to comment on this, but I don't think I could do it better than the [Life Application Bible](#). "Did Samuel really come back from the dead at the medium's call? The medium shrieked at the appearance of Samuel – she knew too well that the spirits she usually contacted were either contrived or satanic. Somehow Samuel's appearance revealed to her that she was dealing with a power far greater than she had known. She did not call up Samuel by trickery or by the power of Satan; God brought Samuel back to give Saul a prediction regarding his fate, a message Saul already knew. This in no way justifies efforts to contact the dead or communicate with persons or spirits from the past. God is against all such practices." I thought that was informative and helpful in explaining the story. How do you respond to this story that reveals how empty Saul had become?

Prayers: Pray for the numerous visitors that come Sunday after Sunday. Ask God to help us minister to them, that we might help them pursue God.