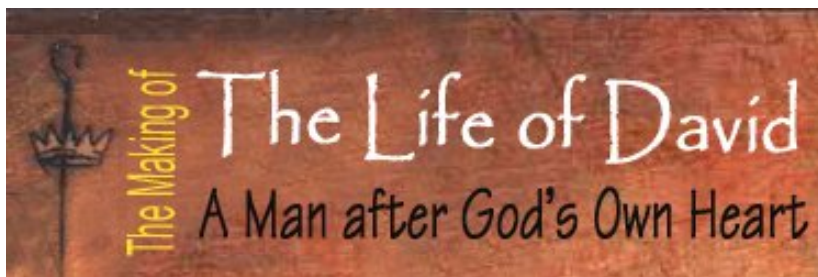




1 Samuel 24

Death to S ___ Sunday, May 7th 2006



You all know the phrase right – finish it: God helps those who _____ (*help themselves*)


- Probably most here today know – not in the Bible – if not let me tell you – it is not!
- More than that – it is opposite call of Bible
- Yet, I admit to you, it is a tough lesson to learn
- It is this that we will begin to see today

Continuing our study in David's life

- David is being trained, shaped, formed to be the king that God has for him to be
 - Today, come to what I believe is one of the key lessons God is seeking to teach him...and you
 - Open to **1 Sam 24**
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I. Seeing the Setting

1. David is on the run, David is hiding

- a. Saul has been chasing, narrow escape
- b. Hiding in Caves in En Gedi – see pictures 

2. Saul is pursuing

- a. Dealt with Philistines, renews pursuit of David
- b. Pursing with 3,000 special troops – special forces

3. David and men hiding in a cave

- a. Imagine what they are feeling, thinking

4. In a moment – everything changes

5. Saul comes into the cave...to cover his feet

- a. Not to use restroom – but to take a nap – common
- b. Imagine David and men watching
- c. Soldiers at the mouth of the cave...but not in
- d. Now...an opportunity is before David a decision...

II. David's Decision

1. Should he kill Saul...

a. This is everything David wants, waiting for

- i) Is everything David needs to turn life around
- ii) Now it is in his power to make it happen


b. But “make it happen” is the problem

- i) To do so...would have to take into own hands

c. Imagine how tempting...imagine the wrestling

- i) Is this God setting it up...seems providential
 - ii) It could all be over today
 - iii) If situation were reversed–Saul wouldn't hesitate
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2. Understand this - that day – something must die

a. Title of message – death to S _ _ _ 

i) Either be death to Sa u l 

ii) Or will be death to Se l f 

b. This really is the decision...not an easy one

3. David won't do this - wonderful

a. In fact David is even bothered by cutting robe

b. Significance in – rob is seen as place of authority

i) Saw meaning before – ripped in Samuels hand

c. Perhaps David making a statement...but even that bothers him

4. David passes the test...

a. This is a test...a lesson in David's life

b. To fail this test...could extend waiting period

c. This is a key issue in making him the man God has for him to be. God is patient – will wait

d. Wonder...Moses 40 years, David 17....

5. Step deeper - What is it that God is seeking to produce?

a. Letting God be God...submitting to Him


i) Not playing god in our lives...not in control

b. Lack of self effort...striving in flesh-even for good

i) Something in this...know God is teaching...me

ii) It is to live without striving

iii) It is to live without manipulation


c. Jesus calls us to this – deny self **Luke 9:23-24** 

d. Jesus illustrated it – nothing of self

i) In fact – Jesus tempted by this – Matt 4 – all has to do is bow to satan – shortcut, easy road

6. What does this look like in our lives?

a. Not always killing someone

- i) Negatively it is to push others out of way
 - ii) Positively it is to push ourselves forward
- b. In friendships, relationships – take out rivals
- c. In Jobs – put others down to make self look good
- d. In Sports – to take out rival (Tonya Harding)
- e. In ministry – manipulate for self **Phil 1:15-18** 

7. To make right decision – Must overcome others advice

a. Imagine the scene, the advice

- i) David's helpers, friends urge him to do this
- ii) They tell him that they think God is in this

b. Be careful about of advice of those who love you most

- i) May sound odd...yet these can be blinded by their heart for us – give bad advice
- ii) Happens – for example in a person considering divorce. Friends can so feel their pain, that they will advice what is wrong out of love for them

8. To make right decision – Must overcome others actions

a. This shows how well David does this

b. Now the temptation is before him...in few words

- i) Temptation to let others do what he wouldn't do

c. How easy it would be to “look the other way”

- i) But before God...such is still guilt, still fail

d. David restrains his men from fighting for him

III. How did David do this?

As David talks to Saul....let's hear his explanation

1. David humbled himself - Watch him bow...

- a. **1 Pet 5** – humble self under God's hand
- b. Satan's goal, practice – I will exalt myself

2. David assumed the best

- a. Small point...yet helpful
- b. **1 Cor 13** – love believes the best
- c. David assumes others influenced Saul
- d. This is what the Bible means by don't judge

3. David wouldn't mess with the anointing

- a. Key passage...difficult passage
- b. Some have misused – pastors, leaders
 - i) I gravitate away from
- c. David sees anointing – God's work
- d. God brings people into world, takes people out
- e. God puts people in ministry, takes out
- f. Anointing wasn't David's call

4. David left Judgment in God's hands

- a. Vengeance is the Lord's **1 Pet 2:21-23; Rom 12:17-19**
- b. David saw it was God's place
- c. David knew God would do it

5. David would not put his hand to it

- a. God would judge...but not my hand

6. David knew – to use his hands – taint his hands

- a. If David killed Saul...something in David would die
- b. Can't do what is wrong and not be tainted

7. David left it to the Lord

IV. Saul responds to David

1. Weeps
 2. Knows David is righteous
 3. Knows David would be king
 - a. Even soldiers around him...people
 4. Asks David for grace after he is gone
 5. David overcomes...Saul is turned...for now
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Conclusion

Know this – David does well – passes test

- But he has just passed death to self 101
- Death to self 201 and 301 are coming....
- Post graduate courses ahead

David learns, passes...

- David writes this psalm
 - Psalm 57
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