

Discussion Questions:

Life of David: Part 6 – Provisions In and For the Battle

1. As you look back on your life, are there any moments or events where you can point to God's particular protection? (Physical protection? Telling you "no" when you desperately wanted something? Sudden unexpected provision? Etc.)
  
2. As we follow David into 1 Sam. 23-24, we saw God's provision for David in three key areas: (**Direction, Protection, and Encouragement.**)
  - a. In 1 Sam. 23:1-14, we find God's provision for David through giving him **Direction** as David sought guidance. Consider the following New Testament passages - What do each tell you about seeking guidance from the Lord?  
  
Matthew 28:20b  
  
Hebrews 1:1-2  
  
James 1:5-8
  
3. In the balance of chapter 23, we saw God's provision for David through **Protection**.
  - a. Pastor Kent quoted Proverbs 14:26. How does that truth relate to David's situation?
  
  - b. He also mentioned the doctrine of **Divine Providence** here. "No matter what mankind may do, God works out his purposes, and His providence does not fail".  
  
If God is "superintending the affairs of this world, the big and the little, to bring glory to his purposes", what are the implications for how we look at life?
  
4. Finally, we saw how God provided for David through **Encouragement** by sending David's best friend, Jonathan.
  - a. What particularly was Jonathan's purpose in visiting David (23:16)?
  
  - b. On a scale of 1-10, how comfortable are you visiting people going through trials / struggles / tragedies / etc.? (1 = no way, 10 = this is my gifting, of course I'll go)
  
  - c. Why do you think we feel the pressure to "say the right thing", or "have the right words"? Which do you think those suffering need more; Words? Or Presence?

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5. In Chapter 24, Pastor Kent drew our attention to David's mercy on Saul in the cave.

a. Have you ever felt really opposed by someone? What did it feel like? How much did your fault (or faultlessness) make a difference?

b. Take some time to rehearse the features / history / characteristics of Saul's opposition to David.

c. Read **Romans 12:17-21**

Compare Paul's words in Romans 12:17 with David's in 1 Samuel 24:12. Why is the Biblical paradigm of God's role in justice so important to keep in mind as we seek to avoid hatred, violence, vengeance, etc.?

d. Read **Matthew 5:43-48**. Do you think Christians today in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America score Low, Medium, or High in following Christ's words here?

If Low or Medium, what are some specific ways the world would look different if we began to improve in this area? How can we begin to improve in this area?

How is God (Christ) an example of his own teaching in this passage?

[See **Luke 23:34**]