
Becoming Christlike – Learning How from Old Testament Kings and Prophets

Session 30 – I Samuel 22...and 2023

God's Word is TRUTH. It continues to stand. It allows us to see. You need to experience it for yourself to understand the greatness of this. It continues to shed light.

Matthew 4:14-17

14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—**16** the people dwelling in darkness have seen a **great light**, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, **on them a light has dawned.**” **17** From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Christ came. He declared that the kingdom of heaven is among you. He taught, he preached, he modeled how one is supposed to live. He shed light on the OT, on himself as the fulfillment of prophecy and on the behavior and error of the scribes and pharisees. Many did not see the light. The lightbulbs didn't go on in their minds and hearts. Their hearts weren't right to receive it. They were easily deceived by their traditions and the leaders' teachings.

Those things that happened then are the same things that happen today. The same deception takes place unless our hearts are right to seek God and the Word and allow the truth of the Word to penetrate our hearts so we can see.

God's Word gives understanding about God, about ourselves, about Christ, about how we are to live, about how we got here and where we are going. God's Word covers all of that!

To recap somewhat of where we have been in I Samuel. We've seen the hearts of Saul, Jonathan, and David on display.

Today we will look at I Samuel 22 in light of the progression (downward spiral) that can happen in a person's heart, mind and life. Back in chapter 10 Saul was anointed king by Samuel. He was God's choice. The spirit of God rushed upon him. He was turned into “another man”. He prophesied with the prophets. How did he get from there to where we will see him in chapter 22? We can look at what happened, and we can also think about what could have happened had he changed his thinking. He had the Old Testament Law. He had been instructed to write for himself a copy of the law and to read from it every day. He had the Word of God from the mouth of Samuel, but he did not do it. Disaster ensued. The same thing can happen today,.

I Samuel 18:6-11

6 As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments.^a **7** And the women sang to one another as they celebrated,

“Saul has struck down his **thousands**, and David his **ten thousands.**”

8 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” **9** And Saul eyed David from that day on.

Saul was triggered by this declaration comparing Saul and David by the women. It made Saul very angry. This tweaked his flesh, his desire to be #1, his competitive nature. He wanted to be praised and given the adulation he deserved so he became very envious of David.

10 The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and **he raved within his house** while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. **11** And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David evaded him twice

Saul raged in his house (says raved) but we see his rage and his anger play out. He was not getting what he wanted for himSELF. His flesh, his carnality, his desire to be the center of the universe...think back to our sessions on the SELF and on following one's carnal inclinations. If this is not interrupted with truth, it can get worse and worse like we see in Saul's life.

David was not Saul's enemy. David was not seeking any evil against Saul. But in Saul's MIND David was his enemy. It was not based on reality, not based on truth. It was based on error. Instead of changing his mind and controlling himself, what does he do? He seeks to alter and change the circumstances to get what he wants.

First he USES Merab against David then that didn't work out. Then he USES Michal, by marrying her off to David he thinks he will have a line to persuade David and get what he wants. He becomes consumed with his pursuit of David and uses all his resources & bases all his actions on an untruth.

(We can do the same based on a blood test or other Dr. report or test result and go off on a mental tangent thinking we are doomed for death when it is just not true!)

Saul USES people (not blessing and serving them); he uses position, resources to get what he wants. Instead of controlling himself, he endeavors to control all else around him. This is pivotal to understanding how we are to live.

My SELF can be subservient to the REAL ME, which is the Christ in me and the Word alive in my mind.

In I Samuel 20 we see that Saul is even willing to kill his own son, Jonathan, for having stood up for David. So we see the progression, the downward spiral of someone who is so self-consumed.

James 3:14-16

14 But if you **have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts**, do not boast and be false to the truth. **15** This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

This is exactly what we see in Saul and in people today. The heart of humans hasn't changed. What can change the heart is getting born again of God's spirit then learning to walk in the new nature, that Christ in, by renewing one's mind.

Saul is one man. Think of his sphere of influence and the people that he negatively affected in his pursuit of David.

David is also one man, and on the receiving end he has to spend all his time running and hiding from Saul's pursuit of him.

The two men represent nations today, since there are 60 nations in which Christians are actively being persecuted.

So we have groups, Islamists for example, or the Hindus seeking to make India and all-Hindu nation...each following an ideology which causes them to seek to kill and eliminate who they see as the opposition.

On the receiving end you have Christians world-wide who are seeking to avoid being persecuted and even put to death.

So these two men represent all history and where we are today.

I Samuel 21:2

2 And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place.

In I Samuel 21 we read the record of David getting the holy bread from Ahimelech the priest and Doeg was present.

I Samuel 21:7

7 Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the Lord. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen.

I Samuel 22

I Samuel 22

1 David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. **2** And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul,^a gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.

All the downcasts and outcasts are drawn to David and are going to stand with him.

3 And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "**Please let my father and my mother stay^b with you, till I know what God will do for me.**" **4** And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

Contrast! We saw Saul USING his family. Here we see David protecting his parents.

5 Then the prophet Gad said to David, “**Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah.**” **So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.**

The evil person is pursuing the righteous person in this fallen world with fallen people. God has to work through the prophet to get the information to David so he can save his life so the Christ can come through the bloodline of David. David needs to recognize that the prophet from Gad is speaking for God. He needs to listen and obey and he does exactly that!

The church is being persecuted today. In a fallen world with the devil who is the God of this age, we need to walk with the Lord in order to have safety and protection. We often want God to change our situation to make it more conducive to teaching and serving.

In the section of Christ’s final instruction to his disciples...

John 17: 13-18

13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have **my joy** fulfilled in themselves.

JOY despite what’s coming! Joy is a fruit of the spirit. You can have joy despite circumstances. You don’t have to adjust your circumstances to make everything perfect. (Back to Eden).

14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **15** I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

He prayed that his followers would be kept from the evil one. We do this by listening to God, via his spirit within and listening to the Word spoken through others.

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them^b in the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

We are in the midst of this dark, perverse, corrupt evil world, with fallen people but we can still have joy. We are to pray for protection and blessing so we can continue to function and do the will of the Lord.

Just look at how pertinent this section is to the world in which we are living today!

I Samuel 22

6 Now Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men who were with him. Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him. **7** And Saul said to his servants who stood about him, “Hear now, people of Benjamin; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, **8** that all of you have conspired against **me**?”

This did not happen! It is Saul’s delusion speaking. They had not conspired against him! It is his paranoia.

No one discloses to **me** when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is sorry for **me** or discloses to **me** that my son has stirred up my servant against **me**, to lie in wait, as at this day.”

Saul is so self-absorbed (notice all the “mes”. He thinks they have turned on him. This is not reality. This is the paranoia of a man obsessed with his own power and his desire to kill David. One loses touch with reality when he is so self-absorbed.

9 Then answered **Doeg the Edomite**, who stood by the servants of Saul, “I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, **10** and he inquired of the Lord for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.”

Doeg had been present when David got the showbread from Ahimelech and tells this to Saul.

11 Then the king sent to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father’s house, the priests who were at Nob, and all of them came to the king.

They all come thinking everything is fine.

12 And Saul said, “Hear now, son of Ahitub.” And he answered, “Here I am, my lord.” **13** And Saul said to him, “Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?”

Saul goes on this rant against Ahimelech. Saul now flips this completely around! David is not pursuing Saul. Black is white, white is black, good is evil, evil is good...does it sound like 2023?

14 Then Ahimelech answered the king, “And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king’s son-in-law, and captain over^c your bodyguard, and honored in your house? **15** Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little.”

Ahimelech basically tells Saul that “he doesn’t get it”; he doesn’t know what Saul is talking about! David has been a faithful servant to Saul. He is Saul’s son-in-law. He is head over Saul’s bodyguards. He is honored by everyone in Saul’s house. What are you talking about? You are paranoid and self absorbed. Don’t accuse me of anything that is not true! I don’t know anything about this!

Saul is accusing Ahimelech, the priest. The devil is the great accuser. Saul at this point is totally working for the devil. He is taking action to kill the priest based on a lie, based on an untruth.

Apply this to politics today. The world situation. Today the Hindus want to get rid of all the Christians in India. They are not doing anything to provoke the Hindus, yet they are under the threat of death. We can see that all of history lines up against Old Testament Judaism and New Testament Christianity. The Muslims want to eliminate all the Christians and Jews. Why? Because Christianity is TRUTH. Jesus is THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and the LIFE. God did call Israel as his chosen people in the Old Testament. The Christ was to come out of the line of David. We can understand why Hamas wants to eliminate Israel. It all makes sense through the lens of the

spiritual battle going on. This was written about events 3000 years ago, and the same devil is behind it as influenced Saul.

16 And the king said, “You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father’s house.”

17 And the king said to the guard who stood about him, “Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me.” **But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the Lord.**

The servants of the king, the guards, would not do it. They know that Saul is out of his mind, and they refuse. We know he is demonically influenced or possessed.

18 Then the king said to Doeg, “You turn and strike the priests.” **And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod.**

Doeg kills them on Saul’s command, based on something that isn’t true... and it doesn’t end there!

19 And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; **both man and woman, child and infant**, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword.

He also kills everyone, all these innocent people, in the city of the priests because of their affiliation with the priest. Absolutely heart-breaking. Sound familiar? Sound like any terrorist group killing innocent people because of their association?

Think of Saul. He had been told to utterly destroy the Amalekites in I Samuel 15 who were evil to the core and he did not do it out of SELF interest (saving the best of the spoil). Here, he wipes out an entire city of innocents in his SELF interest (pride, anger, envy). The human heart has not changed these 3000 years.

This is so similar to the devil’s workings by Hamas. It is astounding how relevant God’s Word is. **God’s Word sheds light** (Deuteronomy 29:29) so that we can know what is true. It was written 3000 years ago but is pertinent to us today. It shows us who we really are and how we are to live.

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart..

God’s Word conducts “imaging” for us. It reveals things that are inside that can’t be seen on the outside. His Word reveals to us who we really are and who we can really be. It helps us to evaluate ourselves so we can adjust and line ourselves up with it.

God’s Word reveals to us who we really are. We can self-examine and make necessary changes. As the beloved Scottish prayer says so beautifully and simply:

Make the Book live for me, Oh God.

Make the Book live for me.

Show me Thyself.

Show me myself.
Show me my savior.
And make the Book live for me.

20 But one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. **21** And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord. **22** And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house.

23 Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping."

Certainly David (with his tender heart) shed more tears over this heartbreaking thing that Saul had ordered Doeg to do, and Doeg had carried it out. (Recalls David "weeping the most" in the interaction with Jonathan in a previous chapter.)

Consider the angst, regret, and remorse David must have felt over all those who had lost their lives.

David is pledging to guard and protect the one remaining son of Ahimelech named Abiathar to the death. He felt responsible for the deaths of all those who had died at the hand of Doeg on Saul's order.