

---

## Becoming Christlike – Learning How from Old Testament Kings and Prophets

### Session 31 - I Samuel 23:1-14 David, Christ, You and Me

We know in I Samuel 21 and following Saul is pursuing David and wants to kill him. David and his band of 400-600 men are on the run from Saul.

Last session in I Samuel 22 we saw the level of evil to which Saul had descended in his downward spiral. The hearts of people who don't seek God can become instruments of the devil in his agenda to steal, kill, and destroy.

#### **John 10:10**

**10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Michael had considered summarizing the next 5 or 6 chapters as Saul's pursuit of David. However as he began that attempt he saw again how God's Words are full of the life of God and have great application to today.

We will read chapter 23 in the context of all that has gone before and relate it to Christ in the gospels of John and Matthew.

Remember that God declared that the things that have been written before are for our learning. We can't learn from them unless we read them and consider them in context.

#### **Romans 15:4**

**4** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Saul has executed the priests at Nob (because Ahimelech had assisted David) & killed all the innocent people in that city simply because of their association with the priests.

#### **I Samuel 23**

**1** Now they told David, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors." **2** Therefore David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the Lord said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah."

God tells David, YES! Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah! Consider the context! David is under assault and constant threat from Saul's pursuit with his army. He is trying to stay alive, while being pursued by the king. He has no home, no bed; he is on the run. He could have said to himself "I am too busy trying to save my life!" Instead, in the midst of these circumstances, he hears of the needs of these people at Keilah, and he asks God if he should go and save Keilah.

This again shows the obedient heart of David. In spite of his circumstances he asks God, and God tells him to go attack the Philistines and save Keilah. Contemplate that, the seriousness of being willing to go risk his life for other people.

We know in our own lives how we cry out to God to help us with our circumstances so we can serve better. It is so easy to say, “God can you please change my circumstances?” God says, “Get busy!” We are in a fallen world. There will be opposition.

**3** But David’s men said to him, “Behold, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?”

So David’s men push back in light of the circumstances. They are already hiding out and on the run and now David wants them to go fight the Philistines.

**4** Then David inquired of the Lord **again**. And the Lord answered him, “Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand.”

So David inquires of the Lord a second time. The Lord gave him the same answer. He now has the promise of God. God is commissioning him to go and do and **God will deliver the Philistines into his hand**.

We need to do the same. We need to “inquire of the Lord”. People are asking us for help, for money. We should be inquiring of the Lord just as David did, when to go or not go, when to give or not give. We need to ask the Lord then obey.

**5** And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow. **So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.**

David goes and is successful. The heart of God is revealed by his actions, He is concerned about all of his people and sends David to save some of them. The heart of David is revealed by his actions and his willing obedience to God.

**6** When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand.

Remember this is the sole survivor of the travesty at Nob where all the priests and all the people were killed. David had pledged himself to protect Abiathar to the death. Abiathar comes to David with an ephod in hand. This was how they approached God for answers.

**7** Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, **“God has given him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars.”**

Saul in his delusion actually thinks and declares that God is giving David into his hand. He is thinking he has David trapped.

**8** And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.

Saul plots against David.

**9** David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, “Bring the ephod here.” **10** Then David said, “O Lord, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account.

David knows that Saul is plotting against him, so he inquires of the Lord. In verse 10 we have new information. Besides killing David, Saul may also want to destroy the city of Keilah. (As he had destroyed the city of Nob after killing all the priests of Nob.)

**11** Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O Lord, the God of Israel, please tell your servant.” And the Lord said, “He will come down.”

David asks the Lord two questions, but the Lord only responds to the second question. **Yes, Saul will come down to Keilah.**

**12** Then David said, “Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?” And the Lord said, “**They will surrender you.**”

David asks the first question again. Will the men of Keilah (who David had just defended against the Philistines) surrender me into the hand of Saul? **God answers that they will!**

Here we see this very ignoble but very human aspect of people. They are looking out for SELF. What will benefit them moving forward with king Saul?

**13** Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition.

**They had information from God.** If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives liberally it says in James. We know the truth of God’s Word, but we can’t know everything that is going on in the spiritual realm because we are so limited in what we can see. What can we learn here? David went to God and asked. When he had the information via Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Discerning of Spirits he knew what he had to do.

David had inquired and God now tells him he’s got to get out of town. They had direct knowledge from God that would enable Him to save their lives. They went wherever they could go... no doubt asking God all along the way where they would be safe. They were just wandering around for safety. Once again God saves David from Saul.

**14** And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. **And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.**

Saul sought him everyday. Saul, like the devil, is relentless in his pursuit of David. The devil desires to obstruct believers, attack, slander, put up obstacles and he is relentless. As Christian believers it is a daily walk with God to know how to live, and what to do. God protected him everyday because he sought him for help.

### **Making Application of the Old Testament Today**

We can and should make application of the Old Testament today. Remember that David is a “type” of Christ. Christ read, memorized, knew, understood these records about David. He would have recognized that David inquired of the Lord for each thing he needed to do. In Christ’s life we see that Christ always went to the father and did what the father said to do.

We are going to look at how Christ modeled this in the gospel of John.

We are going to look at what it actually means to be a follower of Christ in the gospel of Matthew.

Christ knows that he is to be the king in the line of David. He knows that he will be continually pursued by evil people who want to kill him just as David was. He knows that as David was sent to save Keilah, Christ is sent to save the Children of Israel and that God will rescue him at each front. Remember how he was pursued, and they wanted to throw him down, but he just walked right through. That was miraculous. God protected him miraculously.

**John 5:19**

**19** So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only **what he sees** the Father doing. For whatever the Father<sup>e</sup> does, that **the Son does likewise**. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

Jesus did what the father told him to do. He knew that God would give him the revelation necessary. His father would show him. He knew the father loved him, commissioned him and sent him and he would show him what he wanted so he could do those things.

**HE SEES.**

**John 5:30**

**30** “**I can do** nothing on my own. **As I hear**, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

**HE HEARS** Who did he hear from? God, His Father!

**HE DOES**

We can see, hear, and do. We can be obedient carrying out what God wants us to do and THERE WILL BE FRUIT!

**John 8:28,29**

**28** So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that **I do nothing on my own authority, but speak** just as the Father taught me. **29** And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, **for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.**”

**JESUS SPOKE** and did what God wanted him to do.

**SEE, HEAR, SPEAK, DO**

What about us? We are to be Christlike, disciples. Imitators of God as dear children. We can see, hear, speak, and do. God has given us the nine manifestations of holy spirit so that we can! We have CHRIST IN US. We are commissioned to be God’s representatives, his ambassadors for Christ.

Think of the Old Testament. Only the chosen few with the spirit of God upon them could walk and talk with God. The majority did not have the spirit of God.

We have such a great opportunity and privilege. Every second of every day we have the opportunity to minister for him and bless the lives of other people. We live in such a dark time period. We are the lights of the world. We have the opportunity to shine light into and bless other people’s lives.

We know the Word is true.

We know the Word is the answer to life's problems.

We see people who appear to "have it all together". They have wealth and position, and everything you would think desirable to make life great. Yet there is great misery there and great lack.

### **Romans 8:6**

**6** For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

In the Word "death" can mean physical death at the end of one's life. It can also mean spiritual death where you do not have eternal life and will be in the lake of fire at the end of time as it is written in Revelation 21 and 22. It can also be death in this life, meaning misery.

### **Romans 8:12,13**

**12** So then, brothers,<sup>e</sup> we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Not only do we have eternal life, but we can have LIFE in this life. We can have life and peace in the here and now but we can't have it any other way but God's Way which is to set our mind on the spirit. His Word is spirit, and it is life. These are life-giving spiritual words. This is the answer for anybody who wants LIFE!

We are surrounded in our affluent community with families who "have it all" but they are miserable. There are all kinds of issues and addictions and divorces and conflict and on and on we go. There is only one answer...

Life and peace come from God and his Word!

We saw what Christ did. He saw, he heard, he spoke and he did. We are to be his followers.

## **What is following Christ going to be like?**

### **Matthew 8:17-20**

**17** This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

People were getting healed. There were signs, miracles and wonders. The kingdom of God was among them.

**18** Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side.

Isn't that interesting? He had a crowd but didn't say "let me stay here and have a church", rather he says let's go over to the other side.

**19** And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." **20** And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has **nowhere to lay his head.**"

Jesus is saying he had none of the comforts of life that others enjoy. No home, no place to sleep. Think about David while being pursued by Saul. He had no place to call home. Jesus is declaring, "I am an alien on this planet and if you want to follow me this is what it looks like!"

[21](#) Another of the disciples said to him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” [22](#) And Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.”

Dead people can't physically bury dead people, so it is a figure of speech. He is saying they are spiritually dead if they aren't following him. Without God, the Word, and the spirit of God you are just dead. You are existing but you don't have the life of God in you.

We see this played out on a daily basis in the lives of everybody around us. People wonder why they are so miserable. They can't get ahead, they can't get peace, they can't sleep at night. Their children and grandchildren have addictions and marital problems, and anxiety, and fear and worry, and then people turn to other things to try to placate their misery.

There is only one answer! Christ says “follow me. Let the dead people bury their own dead.”

[23](#) And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.

The disciples are with him in the boat. They are probably thinking...everything will be great now, we are with the Messiah. However, look what happens.

[24](#) And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; **but he was asleep.**

If you follow him, there will at times be great storms. Just as David was being continually pursued by people working for the devil, and as Christ told them and us in John 15-17 .... Things are going to be tough. They hate me. They are going to hate you.

There is going to be tribulation and turmoil in this life. However, if you are with Christ, look what is going to happen.

[25](#) And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” [26](#) And he said to them, “**Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?**” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, **and there was a great calm.** [27](#) And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

He calls them “you of little faith”. Showing them that they too can have faith. They too can do signs, miracles, and wonders. They will be in the chaos of the sea of the world after he leaves. We can be peaceful despite of being swamped and despite what is going on around us because of the spirit of God in us and we can exhibit fruit of the spirit.

#### **Galatians 5:22-24**

[22](#) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23](#) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24](#) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

God is never late or delinquent in showing us what we need to know and do. That is why we know that Christ's life was not taken from him. Christ gave his life. That is the only reason that he died. He GAVE his life.

We have the opportunity to give our lives in service to others and to honor and please God.

We will soon begin a New Testament parallel set of teachings to show the application of the Old Testament that is laid out in the New Testament. We want to see how it applies to Christ, the gospels and to our lives today.