**1 Samuel 23**

**Main: Our help is from the Lord**

**1 Samuel 23:1-3**

* **At Nob, David never asked God for guidance, deceived the Priests, and it led to a disaster. This time, David goes to God.**
* **Do you ask God for guidance, trust Him for it? Prov. 3:5-6; 16:9**
* **We don’t always get guidance as they did, but we get guidance.**
* **Failure can be a great teacher when we learn from our mistakes.**
* **The men with David eventually become a significant fighting machine (1 Chron. 12), but at this time they are inexperienced and afraid.**
* **He has a problem and has to deal with it properly.**

**1 Samuel 23:4-6**

* **Unlike Saul, David takes his problems to the Lord and shows real leadership in attacking Keilah.**
* **A problem is not a difficult situation; it’s our reaction to a difficult situation.**
* **God cares more about our character than making us comfortable.**
* **David responded to God’s revelation with faith and enjoyed a great victory.**
* **When we respond to God’s revelation with faith in the Word, we also enjoy the victories of faith.**
* **Today, revelation from God is different, but no less adequate (Heb. 11:1f, 2 Tim. 3:16-17). They believed God’s Word. Do we believe God’s Word?**
* **Careful! Satan comes as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14; 1 Thess. 5:19-21)**

**1 Samuel 23:7-12**

* **The inhabitants of Keilah had no doubt heard about Saul’s destruction of Nob. Their reaction was understandable, though a betrayal.**
* **David doesn’t act like Saul and feel sorry for himself, but keeps his eyes on the Lord, acts wisely, and saves himself and those with him.**
* **When we are wronged, it is very easy to shift our focus onto ourselves, become self-centered, and lose the power of the Spirit.**
* **All of our answers to prayer will not be what we want, but God is good.**
* **Notice the contrast between David and Saul:**
  + **When Keilah was attacked, David does what Saul should have done**
  + **David consults God, while Saul uses spiritual language, but there is no record of him seeking the Lord for his decisions (1 Sam. 13:11-13; 15:10-11, 13-24). We are to obey the clear revelation from God rather than our own thoughts (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Scripture can teach, reprove, correct, and train to thoroughly equip us for every good work.**
* **In areas of uncertainty, God gives wisdom – The book of Proverbs**

**1 Samuel 23:13-18**

* **For the second time in row, David is betrayed, and it is in this context that his best friend comes to him.**
* **Spiritual friendships are concerned for the spiritual well-being of others.**
* **David needed encouragement and Jonathan risked a lot to do it!**
* **While we always need to weigh the gravity of situations and our own limitations, nevertheless…**
* **True friendships make encouragement and the needs of others a priority.**
* **It’s interesting that Jonathan was able find David when Saul and his best men could not. If God is for us, who can be against us?**

**1 Samuel 23:19-24**

* **We should be cautious about trusting those whose values are not spiritual.**
* **Saul has committed mass murder and knows David is God’s man, but still uses spiritual language when talking about his pursuit of David.**
* **Religion often persists long after spirituality leaves us!**

**Psalm 54:1-7**

* **David continues to trust the Lord:**
  + **He turns to prayer when betrayed**
  + **Now, he sees God as his “Helper” instead of Goliath’s sword**
  + **He leaves vengeance to God**
  + **He is able to praise God amid his pain**
  + **David is back!**
* **As much as we hate difficulties, because we serve a sovereign God who cares about our problems and loves us, they can be tools to lead us home.**

**1 Samuel 23:25-29**

* **With God, there is no such thing as a “close-call”.**
* **Though a nation’s best military was pursuing David and his small group of soldiers, the Sovereign God of Israel controls the movement of nations.**
* **While many things may happen that we don’t understand, and for which we have no answers, God does.**
* **My inability to figure things out doesn’t mean God can’t…and won’t!**

**Main: Our help is from the Lord. Make sure you value the Word and prayer to get it! Self-reliance is very common…and very dangerous.**