

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## 1 SAMUEL 23-26

One of my favorite movies is “[The Fugitive](#)”. US Marshal, Sam Gerard, chases escaped convict, Dr. Richard Kimball, through the forests of Pennsylvania - to the streets of Chicago - down the corridors of the hospital where Dr. Kimball use to practice medicine... Somehow Kimball stays one step ahead of his pursuers.

Gerard, played by Tommy Lee Jones, is relentless. Kimball, played by Harrison Ford, is innocent. Dr. Kimball is being hunted down for a crime he didn't commit.

Tonight's chapters could be entitled, “[Israel's Fugitive](#)”. King Saul tracks and chases and plans to murder an innocent man. He too is a relentless pursuer. Yet God is on David's side, and helps him stay one step ahead of Saul and his posse'.

Saul, the ruling king, became jealous of David's victories and popularity. And despite David's unquestioned loyalty, a paranoid Saul viewed him as a threat.

Three times Saul tried to kill David with his spear. Three times David escaped.

Finally, David realizes he can no longer stay in Saul's royal court. It's proving to be *hazardous to his health*. And in chapter 21 he begins his flight from Saul. He goes to Nob – he flees to Gath – then he fights to save the city of Keliath.

And that's where we begin tonight in chapter 23, “[Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against](#)

**Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors."** Keilah was in the plains of Judea – 18 miles SW of Jerusalem. And it was being picked on. It was harvest time and Philistines raiders were stealing grain.

And whose job was it to defend Keilah, and all Israeli territory?

*King Saul, of course.* But Saul was too busy fighting his friends – and killing his own priests – and plotting to catch David – to do his job. He was so self-centered and determined to protect his own position he lost sight of the real enemy.

And, oh my, how this happens to Christians... Another church in town, or a new home fellowship, or a freshly formed men's group becomes popular. So much so that members from your own group jump ship and join them. You feel threatened.

**"A brother from another mother..."** enters the picture and we become jealous.

So we circle the wagons... Our focus shifts from fighting the devil and building God's kingdom to picking apart the new sibling. We chunk spears at David – while the Philistines march against us. Guys, be careful you don't act like a King Saul.

Saul spent all his time and energy protecting his own position and authority. He should've trusted God to defend his throne - and did what God had called him to do. Hey, we'll never win the battle if we forget who it is we're supposed to fight.

Verse 2 “Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go and attack these Philistines?” When told the Philistines had attacked Keilah, it would’ve been easy for David to have taken one of two wrong approaches... and both be wrong.

He could’ve said, “That’s Saul’s job, not mine. I’m staying out of it.” and been guilty of apathy. Or, “If Saul won’t do it, I will. Let’s go.” And been presumptuous.

David makes the smart move, and asks for God’s direction.

“And the LORD said to David, “Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah.”

But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" Remember, according 22:1 David is in the cave of Adullam. He’s hiding from King Saul.

His men are afraid an attack against the Philistines would expose them.

And David doesn’t disagree. Unlike Saul, he wasn’t a tyrant. It wasn’t his way or the highway. He takes the advice of his men to heart, and prays about it again. Perhaps he had misunderstood the Lord. *David realized he could be wrong.*

David was such a different type of leader than Saul.

“Then David inquired of the LORD once again. And the LORD answered him and said, “Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand.” And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock.

So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

Now it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he went down with an ephod in his hand. And Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. So Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars."

Apparently, this was what David's men had feared. "Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men."

When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." Then David said, "O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant."

And the LORD said, "He will come down." Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?" You'd think the people of Keilah would be grateful, but not so. "And the LORD said, "They will deliver you."

So David and his men, about 600, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition." Note the number of David's followers has increased. It's grown by 50% - from 400 to 600. People were tiring of Saul's tyranny. He's a madman who's treated other people just as he did David.

Verse 14 "And David stayed in strongholds in the

wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph..." - which was just west of the Dead Sea.

"Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand."

Saul tables his other duties. His sole pursuit is to track down David. That evil green monster, called Envy, is in control of his life. He's traipsing around the barren wilderness of the Dead Sea while affairs of state go unintended.

"So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest. Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God." David needs some encouragement – and it arrives in the form of an old friend, Jonathan.

And I love the wording... Jonathan "strengthened his hand in God." He rallied David's faith. Their brief time of fellowship refocused David on God's faithfulness and His unfailing promises. This is the power of a godly friendship.

It's been said, "Friends double our joys and divide our grief." There've been so many times in my life when I've been down and discouraged, that God has been faithful to send a friend across my path to pick me up.

"And (Jonathan) said to (David), "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that." So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD.

And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house."

“Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon? Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand.”

And Saul said, “Blessed are you of the LORD, for you have compassion on me. Please go and find out for sure, and see the place where his hideout is, and who has seen him there. For I am told he is very crafty.” Saul was the crafty one.

“See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides; and come back to me with certainty, and I will go with you. And it shall be, if he is in the land, that I will search for him throughout all the clans of Judah.”

So they arose and went to Ziph before Saul. But David and his men were in the Wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon. When Saul and his men went to seek him, they told David.” The Ziphites were trying to play both sides.

“Therefore he went down to the rock, and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon.”

All these places mentioned belong to what Israelis today call the “**Negev**” – which is Hebrew for “**south**”. In 1867 Mark Twain paid a visit to the land of Israel, and gave this description of the Negev, “**a desolation that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action...**” Years of arid weather and erosion have turned the Negev into mostly desert, but in biblical times there were some forests



and vegetation – places where David could retreat and hide out.

Both then and now, the temperature in the Negev can soar - upwards of 120 degrees. Psalm 63 is prefaced, “A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah.” It was probably written on a hot day in the Wilderness of Maon. David writes, “My soul thirsts for You...In a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.”

Saul heard that David was in Maon. “Then Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. So David made haste to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them.” Saul outmaneuvered David, and just about had him surrounded – when God comes to the rescue. An act of providence saves David.

Verse 27 “But a messenger came to Saul, saying, “Hasten and come, for the Philistines have invaded the land!” Therefore Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines; so they called that place the Rock of Escape.”

Psalm 54 is prefaced, “A contemplation of David when the Ziphites went and said to Saul, “Is David Not Hiding with Us?” Here are a few excerpts...

“Save me, O God, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your strength... For strangers have risen up against me, and oppressors have sought after my life; they have not set God before them. Behold, God *is* my helper; the Lord *is* with those who uphold my life. He will repay my enemies for their evil...

I will praise Your name, O Lord, for *it is* good. For He has delivered me out of all trouble; and my eye has seen *its desire* upon my enemies.”

Verse 29 tells us, “**Then David went up from there and dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi.**” When we tour Israel we always visit En Gedi. Today it’s a nature reserve on the western shore of the Dead Sea. It’s an oasis in the midst of the desert.

En Gedi is a beautiful place. It’s one of my favorite stops - fresh water, palm trees, bulrushes blowing in the breeze, waterfalls, and abundant wildlife.

Many of David’s phrases in the psalms may’ve come from his time at En Gedi.

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God...”

“He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places...”

“Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy.” There are numerous caves all over the cliffs above En Gedi. They were perfect shelter from the heat, and wind, and rain.

And they even provided Israel’s fugitive shelter from Saul... as we’ll see...

Chapter 24 begins, “**Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Take note! David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi." Then Saul took 3000 chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.**”



Even today, the Ibex – or wild mountain goats – still roam the cliffs of En Gedi. They'll come down into the parking lot to eat the trash left behind by the tourists.

“So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs.” In other words, Saul stops of a potty break.

In ancient times constipation was known as “the curse of the kings”. The king’s rich foods and the stress of the job made this a common ailment among royalty.

“(David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)” The lookouts spotted Saul’s troops. David ordered his men to hide in the caves. Saul’s caravan stops right in front of the cave David occupies. Talk about drama... Here it is!

This is amazing! David’s men can’t believe it! Saul is just a few yards away.

When Saul comes in out of the sunlight into the dark cave he can’t see David’s men in the shadows. And then his grunts must’ve drowned out their whispers.

Verse 4 “Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" “David what an answer to prayer! God has arranged this encounter. Here’s an opportunity to kill Saul before he kills you.”

“And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.” The borders of a king or priest’s robe represented his

authority. To clip off a corner was an insult.

What David did to Saul was a slap in the face – a mockery of his office. David didn't kill Saul, but there was bitterness in his heart – and he feels guilty about it...

Verse 5 “Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe. And he said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.” Saul may've been a *madman*, but he was still *God's man* – and until God removed Saul, David's job was to respect the king.

Remember David was a man motivated by principle – not convenience.

“So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.”

Hey, in our battle with wickedness we need to remember a *good cause* doesn't justify *wicked tactics*. Our enemy beats us only when he causes us to act like him.

As Romans 12:21 tells us, “Overcome evil with good.”

In his book “A Tale of Three Kings”, Gene Edwards imagines the conversation between one of David's men, Joab, and David – after Saul had left the cave...

Joab complains, “Why, David, why? Many times he almost speared you in his castle... Finally, you run away. Now for years you've been nothing but a rabbit for him to chase. Furthermore, the whole world believes the lies he tells about

you.

He has come hunting every cave, pit, and hole to find you and kill you like a dog. But tonight you had him at the end of his own spear and you did nothing!”

“Look at us. We’re animals again. Less than an hour ago you could’ve freed us all... Why, David, why did you not end these years of misery?”

There was a long silence. David slowly and with a gentleness (said), “Because once, long ago, he was not mad. He was young. He was great. Great in the eyes of God and men. And it was God who made him king – God – not men.”

Joab blazed back, “But now he is mad! And God is no longer with him. And, David, he will yet kill you!” This time it was David’s answer that blazed with fire.

“Better he kill me than I learn his ways. Better he kill me than I become as he is. I shall not practice the ways that cause kings to go mad. I will not throw spears, nor allow hatred to grow in my heart. I will not avenge. Not now. Not ever!”

Gene Edwards concludes, “That night men went to bed on cold, wet stone and muttered about their leader’s distorted, masochistic views of relationships to kings.

Angels went to bed that night too, and dreamed, in the afterglow of that rare, rare day, that God might yet be able to give His authority to a trustworthy vessel.”

Verse 8 “David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when

Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down. And David said to Saul: "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Indeed David seeks your harm'?"

Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.'

"Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you." I can see Saul yanking at his robe – inspecting it to see if he was missing a corner.

“Yet you hunt my life to take it. Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you.

As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.' In other words, “wicked is as wicked does.” Attitudes reveal themselves in actions.

But David is the opposite. He plays by God’s rules - even when the enemy doesn’t. “But my hand shall not be against you.” He said it twice for emphasis.

“After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea?” Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand." David believes

vengeance belongs to God. He vindicates the righteous – it's not up to us.

Jesus said our job is to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us....

“So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

Then he said to David: "You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil. And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely?

Therefore may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.

Therefore swear now to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house." So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.” Saul had said all the right words before. David doesn't trust Him. David won't feel safe from Saul's jealousy until he is in the grave.

Chapter 25 “Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah.” Samuel was “the prophet of prayer” – and he helped transition Israel into the kingdom age.

It was fitting that the whole nation gathered together at Ramah to pay their final respects – *even David*. Apparently, he and Saul arranged some sort of cease fire.

“And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.” Which was even further south into the Negev. “Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel, and the man was very rich. He had 3000 sheep and 1000 goats.

And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

The name of the man was Nabal (which means “scoundrel”), and the name of his wife Abigail. And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance (Abigail was a babe with brains! She was hot and holy at the same time.); but the man was harsh and evil in his doings. And he was of the house of Caleb.” If ever there was a case of “Beauty and the Beast” this fits perfectly.

Nabal and Abigail were husband and wife, but they were poles apart.

If ever a couple could be classified as “unequally yoked” – this was it! Abigail was a believer – a godly woman. Nabal was an unbeliever - a scoundrel.

Verse 4 “When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep, David sent 10 young men; and David said to the young men, “Go up to Carmel, go to Nabal, and greet him in my name. And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity: ‘Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have! Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds were with us, and we did not



hurt them, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel. Ask your young men, and they will tell you.

Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David.'

So when David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in the name of David, and waited." David helped Nabal and his servants – not its time for Nabal to return the favor. David expects Nabal to reciprocate.

"Then Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master." The implication is that David is just another flash-in-the-pan rebel.

"Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?"

So David's young men turned on their heels and went back; and they came and told him all these words. Then David said to his men, "Every man gird on his sword." So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword.

And about 400 men went with David, and 200 stayed with the supplies." David and his men get ready to rumble. They're going to take Nabal to the woodshed.

"Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them.

But the men were very good to us, and we were not hurt, nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied them, when we were in the fields.

They were a wall to us both by night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore, know and consider what you will do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him." Even the servant is disgusted with him.

"Then Abigail made haste and took 200 loaves of bread, 2 skins of wine, 5 sheep already dressed, 5 seahs of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. And she said to her servants, "Go on before me; see, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

So it was, as she rode on the donkey, that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them.

Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good. May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light." He's out for blood.

**Verse 23** "Now when Abigail saw David, she hastened to dismount from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground.

So she fell at his feet and said: "On me, my lord, on me let

this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant. Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal.

For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.

Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, since the LORD has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal. And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord.

Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the LORD, and evil is not found in you throughout your days.

Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling.”

She hopes all David’s enemies will be slung away like rocks in a slingshot.

“And it shall come to pass, when the LORD has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel, that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself.” When David is crowned king he won’t give Nabal’s

little slight a second thought... "But when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your maidservant."

Then David said to Abigail: "Blessed is the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand." Evidently, David had run out of restraint dealing with Saul.

Nabal would've tasted David's fury if it hadn't been for Abigail's intercession.

"For indeed, as the LORD God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from hurting you, unless you had hastened and come to meet me, surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal." So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up in peace to your house.

See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person."

It's interesting that the same person who showed such patience with Saul had so little tolerance for Nabal. Saul chunks spears at David. Chased him across the country and made his life miserable. Yet David won't dare touch God's anointed.

All Nabal does is hold back rations – and David is ready to wipe him out.

With the big challenges we tend to rise to the occasion. We scrutinize our motive. We do our best to walk in the Spirit. We keep the flesh in check.

It's the Nabals though that frustrate us... the unexpected,

unprepared for hassles and injustices that pop up – the little stuff – that cause us problems.

We can deal with Saul, but we let Nabal eat at us. He gets us angry. Before we know it we're walking in our own craftiness and pursuing our own vindictiveness.

AW Pink says this, “The strongest are as weak as water as soon as the power of the Spirit is withdrawn; the most mature acts foolishly the moment he is left to himself; none of us has reserve strength or wisdom to draw from; our source of sufficiency is treasured up in Christ, and as soon as communion with Him is broken, as soon as we cease looking alone to Him for help, we are helpless.”

This is what happened to David. Thankfully, a wise gal came to his rescue... which is exactly what's saved me from many a foolish move... *a wise woman*.

Verse 36 “Now Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was, holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; therefore she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light.

So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone from Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became like a stone.” Talk about a hangover! Nabal may've had a stroke and was paralyzed.

“Then it came about, after about ten days, that the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.” Which made the wise and wonderful Abigail a widow... now she was a marriageable maiden... a fact that did not go unnoticed by David...

Verse 39 “So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For the LORD has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head.” God rights all wrongs. He settles every score. Not always when and how we’d like – vengeance belongs to God, not us.

“And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife.”

When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, “David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife.” Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, “Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord...” which is exactly what Kathy said to me when I proposed to her... *well, maybe not in those exact words...*

Think about this from Abigail’s point of view. She’s moved up. Yesterday she was married to a scoundrel. Today she’s married to the soon to be King. That is exactly what happened to you the day you gave your life to Jesus. You moved up.

Verse 42 “So Abigail rose in haste and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife.”

Here’s the “*take home*” from this story... Perhaps you’re a believer in Jesus and you’re married to a Nabal. You’re unequally yoked in your marriage. Maybe your spouse isn’t a



scoundrel, but they're an unbeliever – and its tough sledding.

You wish you could share Jesus with your mate - but you can't. You wish they had some godly wisdom, and you didn't always have to save their skin...

An old country song sums up your feelings. It contains the line, “I don't want no more of the cheese, I just want out of the trap.” Maybe that's how you feel?

But learn a lesson from Abigail... Rather than feel *stuck with your spouse*. She did two things: *she stuck by him* and *stuck up for him*. And in the end, her life with Nabal helped to form the woman that David admired. If you're married to a Nabal, God will use your marriage to make you more pleasing to the son of David, Jesus.

When Abigail entered her new household she found that she wasn't alone. She had a roommate. Verse 43 “David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and so both of them were his wives. But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim.” David eventually adds four more.

In chapter 26 Saul's old friends, the Ziphites, are at it again - ratting on David.

“Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?" The last time Saul conspired with Ziph to catch David he almost had him. He had him surrounded when he was called home to put down a Philistine attack. It was an act of God's deliverance.

“Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having 3000 chosen men of Israel with him to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph. And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon, by the road.

But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul had indeed come.” These spies do a good job of surveillance. Evidently, they get so close they’re able to pinpoint the exact spot Saul’s unpacks his bedroll.

And their reconnaissance sets David up for a daring maneuver...

Verse 5 “So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped.

And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army.” Apparently, Abner was acting as Saul’s bodyguard.

“Now Saul lay within the camp, with the people encamped all around him.” Saul was at the heart of the camp. At the center of 3000 soldiers – armed for battle.

“Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruah, brother of Joab, saying, “Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?” And Abishai (a brave, brave man) said, “I will go down with you.”

So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.” The king’s spear was the equivalent of his scepter. That’s why Saul always kept it with

him.

“And Abner and the people lay all around him. Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a **second time!**" David, that's the spear Saul threw at you and tried to pin you to the wall. Let's throw it back. With one thrust I can make a shish kabob of Saul.

Gene Edwards has a line in his book, “What do you do when someone throws a spear at you? Does it not seem odd to you that David did not know the answer to this question? After all, everyone else in the world knows what to do when a spear is thrown at them. Why, you pick up the spear and throw it right back!

When someone throws a spear at you, David, just wrench it right out of the wall and throw it back. Absolutely everyone else does, you can be sure.”

But David was not like everyone else. That's why God could trust him with leadership. He knew spiritual authority is used for *God's glory* not *our gain*.

God had “**delivered his enemy into his hand**”. But only David would conclude that God did so - not take his life – but to show his enemy mercy and grace.

“And David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?" David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.” God would deal with Saul

just as he had dealt with Nabal. David had learned he didn't have to help God exact vengeance.

Romans 12:19, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord..."

The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go." So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw it or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them." It was a miracle.

"Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance being between them. And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Do you not answer, Abner?"

Then Abner answered and said, "Who are you, calling out to the king?" So David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king?" David calls out Abner. He'd been the king's bodyguard. "For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king."

This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jug of water that was by his head." Abner and the others spin around... only to see that the spear and canteen are gone.

Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is that your voice,

my son David?"

And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king." And he said, "Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand?"

Now therefore, please, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering.

But if it is the children of men, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.' "So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD. For the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains." David is saying, "I'm no threat to you."

"Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day.

Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly." And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it.

May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the LORD, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation." Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail."

So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.”  
And the two men, Saul and David – whose lives were so  
entangled - never saw each other again.