

In the 1993 classic film “[The Fugitive](#),” US Marshal, Sam Gerard (played by Tommy Lee Jones), chases escaped convict, Dr. Richard Kimball (played by Harrison Ford) through the forests of Pennsylvania, across the city of Chicago, and down the corridors of the hospital where Dr. Kimball practiced medicine.

Gerard is relentless. Kimball is innocent. The fugitive is being hunted down for a crime he didn’t commit, yet somehow he stays one step ahead of his pursuers.

Well, today’s chapters are all about, “[Israel’s Fugitive](#).” King Saul chases 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, was jealous of David’s victories and popularity. Despite David’s unquestioned loyalty to the king, a paranoid Saul saw him as a threat. Three times Saul tried to screw David with a spear. Three times David escapes. Finally, he realized it’s hazardous to his health to stay in Saul’s court. So David flees!

He’s on the run... Last time we saw David escape to the priestly city of [Nob](#) - then to the Philistine city of [Gath](#). Today, he defends [Keilah](#); takes flight to [Ziph](#), on to [Maon](#), [En Gedi](#), [Carmel](#), and then back to [Ziph](#).

We catch up to David in 1 Samuel 23, “[Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors."](#) Keilah (Keyla) means “[citadel](#),” a city 18 miles southwest of Jerusalem, in the plain of Judea. It was harvest time and Philistine raiders were stealing grain.

And whose job was it to defend this city, as well as all of Israeli territory? *King Saul’s of course*. But Saul was too busy fighting his friends, and killing his priests, and plotting to catch David... **to do his job**. Saul was so self-centered, so bent on protecting his own position and power, that he had lost sight of the real enemy.

And this can happen to us... A new church starts up, or a new person joins ours, and they become popular. So much so, we feel threatened, and grow jealous.

Trust God with whatever throne you sit on. God is in charge of who’s in authority. Our job is to fight the enemy not chunk spears at a David. Stay focused on building the kingdom not throwing spears at each other We’ll never win battles if we forget who we’re fighting.

Verse 2, “Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go and attack these Philistines?” When told the Philistines had stolen Keilah crop, David could’ve made two mistakes. On the one hand, he might’ve said, “That’s Saul’s job, not mine. I’m staying out of it” - and been guilty of apathy... Or said, “If Saul won’t do it, I will. Let’s go” - and been presumptuous.

But David is wise. He asks God for 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?”

Recall 22:1, at the time David is in the cave of Adullam hiding from King Saul. His men are afraid an attack against the Philistines will expose their whereabouts. **And David doesn’t disagree.** For unlike Saul, David wasn’t a tyrant. It wasn’t always his way or the highway. He takes the concern of his men to heart, and prays again. *Perhaps he’d misunderstood the Lord.* **Every good leader realizes he can be wrong.**

But in this incident David **isn’t** wrong. He “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.”

But Saul hears of David’s movements, and since Keilah was heavily fortified, he thinks he can trap David within its walls. Saul calls his army up for battle.

David in turn, *calls on God.* He sends for the priest, Abiathar, to act in his priestly capacity and intercede for him before God. Verse 10, “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? And the LORD said, “They will deliver you.” You’d think the men of Keilah would be grateful to their deliverer, *but they’ll turn on David in a heartbeat.*

“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.” And notice the followers of David have now grown by 50% - from 400 to 600. People are tiring of Saul’s tyranny, and want to live under David’s wise and benevolent leadership.

“And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph...” which was west of the Dead Sea. “Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.” It seems Saul had tabled his royal duties to focus solely on this manhunt. That evil green monster, Envy, is now controlling his life. He’s traipsing across a barren landscape 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 needed some encouragement – and it arrived in the form of an old friend, Jonathan. And I love the wording here, “(Jonathan) strengthened his hand in God.” or “his hold on God.” Jonathan was able to rally David’s faith. This is the power of a godly friendship.

Often my sagging faith has been strengthened by the faith of a friend. This is why you need to seek the right friends now, so when you need them they’ll be there!

“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.”

Now David is in the Wilderness of Ziph, surrounded by Ziphites. And how do you trust folks named “Ziph”? *The name just sounds suspicious... You’re ziphing me.*

And sure enough, the Ziphites go to Saul to squeal on David. They promise to turn him over to the king.

But when Saul comes, the Ziphites tell David, Saul’s coming, and it gives him time to flee deeper into the wilderness, *to Maon*. The Ziphites were playing both sides. Verse 25 tells us David and his men fled into the Wilderness of Maon, and were pursued by Saul.

All these place names in our text belong to what Israelis today call the “Negev” - Hebrew for “south.”

Today, the Negev is an arid wilderness, but in biblical times the region was full of vegetation and heavily forested - perfect hiding spots for David and his men.

Both then and now, the temperature in the Negev soars - as high as 120 degrees in the summertime. 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 Maon. David writes, “My soul thirsts for You...In a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.”

Well, Saul heard that David was in the Negev. Verse 26, “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 was outmaneuvering David, and almost had him surrounded, when God came to the rescue.

An act of God’s providence saves David. Verse 27, “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.” An emergency forces Saul to return home.

Psalm 54 is prefaced, “A contemplation of David when the Ziphites went and said to Saul, “Is David Not Hiding with Us?” It’s a psalm in which David speaks of his faith. “I will praise Your name, O Lord, for it is good. For He has delivered me out of all trouble...”

Verse 29, “Then David went up from there and dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi.” On our tours of Israel we always visit En Gedi. Today, it’s a nature reserve on the western shore of the Dead Sea - an oasis in the desert.

En Gedi is one of my favorite stops - palm trees, bulrushes blowing in the breeze, waterfalls, abundant wildlife, and ice cream sandwiches at the gift shop!

Many of David’s phrases in the psalms surely came from his time at En Gedi... “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’s a huge cave with a collapsed ceiling in the back of the En Gedi wadi (or ravine). It would’ve made a perfect shelter from the heat, and wind, and rain, *and a jealous king...* The secluded oasis of En Gedi was the perfect hide-out for Israel’s most wanted fugitive.

Chapter 24, “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 now, the Ibex - or mountain goats - roam the cliffs of En Gedi. Today, they come into the parking lot to eat the tourist’s trash.

“So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs.” In short, Saul stops for a potty break. In ancient times constipation was known as “the curse of kings.” A monarch’s rich diet and the stress of his job made loose bowels a common ailment among royalty.

“(David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)” When the lookouts spotted Saul’s troops, David ordered his men to the rear of the cave. It was a big cave to tuck away 600 men. And Saul’s caravan stops right in front of the cave David occupies. *Talk about drama... This is amazing! David’s men can’t believe it! A defenseless Saul is just a few yards away.*

When Saul comes in out of the sunlight into the dark cave he doesn’t see David’s men in the shadows. And his grunts probably drown out any of their whispers.

Verse 4, “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.’” They’re saying, David what an answer to prayer! God has arranged this... Here is our opportunity to kill Saul before he kills us.

Remember we call this period, “David’s pre-king days.” But to his men at the time they were just, “David’s days” - long days, hard days, hopeless days...

But this was their opportunity for relief. David has it within his power to kill this madman and end this brutal ordeal for everyone. *David is within his rights. Saul had thrown the spear at him first. David, please do it now!*

There were 600 men in David’s army, and 599 thought he was justified in ending Saul’s life. Everyone assumed God had delivered Saul into David’s hands so he could kill him. Only David figured God had turned Saul over to him to see if he would bless him. What a huge test: *would David fear the Lord and honor God’s anointed?*

It’s interesting, when David can finally solve *his Saul problem*, we learn he’s committed to something greater than freedom from his problems. There’s **a principle** he deems important: **respect for God’s anointed**. And **a process** that needs to play out: **exaltation comes from God**. And both *principle* and *process* are more vital to David than escaping bothersome problems.

Here’s the ministry lesson David demonstrates, **just because you can doesn’t mean you should**. David is in the right, he has the opportunity, but that doesn’t mean he can do as he pleases! This opportunity hasn’t been given to David for him to use anyway and for any reason. *How much does he really want to please God?*

I love the following prayer, “O, God, make me one of those rarest of souls, who willingly waits for Your time. My impatient will, must be lost in Your own, and Your will,

forever be mine.” David waited on God. He knew, **just because he could, didn’t mean he should.**

Yet David isn’t the perfect hero. He does use his advantage here to insult Saul. Verse 4 tells us, **“And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.”**

Today, military rank is depicted on a uniform’s sleeve or collar or chest. But in antiquity the hem of the robe, revealed a soldier’s status. Likewise, the borders of a kingly or priestly robe represented authority. And to clip off even a corner of such a robe was a serious insult.

And here, David **cuts corners.** *Literally*, he sneaks up to Saul’s robe and defaces its hem - but *spiritually* he cut corners by letting the king live, while cleverly diminishing him and his God-given authority in the eyes of his men.

And I’m afraid some of us can **cut corners.** Oh, we desire *God’s will*, but we’re determined to pursue it *our way*. Remember, more important to God than *what we do*, is *how we do it*. More important to God than *where we go*, is *how we get there*. We all know the principle, God’s will, **done God’s way**, never lacks God’s blessing.

“Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.” David knew there was bitterness in his heart, and he feels guilty over what he’d done. **“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 him, David’s job was to respect the king. 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.”** In our struggle with evil, remember our enemy beats us only if he causes us to act like him. Romans 12:21 states, **“Overcome evil with good.”**

In his book, **“A Tale Of Three Kings,”** Gene Edwards imagines the campfire conversation later that night, between David and his general, Joab... **“Joab walked directly in front of David, looked down on him, and began roaring his frustrations. “Many times he almost speared you to death in his palace. I saw that with my own eyes. Finally, you ran away. Now for years you have been nothing but a rabbit for him to chase. Furthermore, the whole world believes the lies he tells about you. The king has come... hunting every cave, pit, and hole on earth 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 have freed us all. Yes, we could all be free, right now! Free! And Israel, too. She would be free. Why, David? Why did you not end these years of misery?"

There was a long silence. Men shifted again, uneasily. They were not accustomed to seeing David rebuked. "Because," said David very slowly (and gently), "because once, long ago, Saul 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 will I allow hatred to grow in my heart. I will not avenge. I will not destroy the Lord's anointed. Not now. Not ever!"

Gene Edwards concludes his chapter, "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." God will entrust David with spiritual authority, for David knows how to handle it!

Verse 8, "David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" Now he's exposed their hiding place. They're a target.

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!" And I'm sure David was holding up the severed snippet of cloth.

"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 imagine, Saul yanking at his robe, inspecting it to see if it 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 short, "wicked is as wicked does." Actions reveal attitudes.

"After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea?" Saul's army was 3000 strong - five times David's band. David was just a flea - no threat at all. "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 believed vengeance belongs to God. It’s NOT for us to punish our enemies. According to Jesus our job is to love our enemies and do good to our haters.

“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 the right words before. Now David doesn’t trust Him. **But God can trust David - he’s passed a vital test.**

It’s interesting, the choice David made that day in the darkness and privacy of that cave, eventually impacted his public ministry... And it’s how we handle power and authority **in private** - *whether we cut corners* - that ultimately determines our promotion in God’s kingdom!

Chapter 25 begins with Samuel’s death and burial at his home in Ramah. The nation gathers to pay their respects to **the last of the judges and the first of the prophets.** And both David and Saul were there. They must’ve negotiated a ceasefire so both could attend.

Verse 1, “David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.” 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 (a babe with brains - godly and gorgeous, pretty and pious at the same time.); **but the man was harsh and evil in his doings... He was of the house of Caleb.**” Here was a case of “Beauty and the Beast.” Nabal and Abigail were husband and wife, but character-wise

they were poles apart. If ever a couple classified as “unequally yoked” this was it! Abigail ended up a peacemaker. Nabal was just a scoundrel.

And apparently, Nabal and David had crossed paths before - *at least their servants had*. Earlier David had helped Nabal’s men when they were in need of food and water. Now David asks Nabal to return the favor.

But, verse 10, “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.” David is just a flash-in-the-pan, striking out on his own. *He won't get my help!*

Verse 12, “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... girded on his sword. About 400 men went with David, and 200 stayed with the supplies.” Get ready to rumble, it’s time to teach a scoundrel a lesson.

But one of Nabal’s men reported what had happened to Abigail. Her husband had needlessly infuriated David!... So Abigail hurries into action with 200 pitas, 2 flasks of wine, 5 sheep on the barbie, 5 bushels of toasted grain, 100 bunches of raisins, 200 Fig Newtons, and ran to intercept David. It’s interesting, David had refused to hurt the king, God’s anointed, but he sure doesn’t mind roughing up the scoundrel.

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!... 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...”

Abigail intercedes for her husband. She says to David, verse 28, 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.” She then prays that God will sling out David’s enemies like a rock from the pocket of a sling... And when David sits on the throne as God has ordained, he won’t even remember Nabal’s insult.

Verse 32, “Then David said to Abigail...” And you can read his blessing. He commends Abigail for her wisdom. He had used up all his restraint in dealing with Saul. Nabal would’ve tasted his fury, if not for his wife.

And you'd think after dealing wisely with a king, an encounter with a scoundrel would've been easy. But David was led by the Spirit with Saul, while walking in the flesh with Nabal, and that makes all the difference!

AW Pink puts it, "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 would've happened to David. But thankfully, a wise gal came to his rescue... *which has saved me from many a foolish move... a wise wife.*

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! Sounds like Nabal 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 eligible to remarry... a fact that doesn't go unnoticed by David...

When David hears of Nabal's demise, he thanks God for giving the scoundrel what he deserved. Then wasting no time, he sends his servants to propose marriage to Abigail. *It might've been more romantic if he had proposed in person*, but Abigail still accepts...

Verse 41, "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..." And as I recall that is exactly how my wife replied to me when I proposed... *maybe not in those exact words...*

In all seriousness, think of this from Abigail's point of view. She's moved up! Yesterday she was married to a scoundrel. Today, she's the wife of the soon to be King. Which happens to us the day we gave our life to Jesus

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

Here's an application... A believer in Jesus married to a Nabal is unequally yoked, which can make for a tough life. Maybe your spouse isn't a scoundrel, but they're an

unbeliever. You both see life differently, and you wish you could share your life in Jesus..

You surely wish your spouse had a little godly wisdom, so you didn't always have to clean up their messes... There's a country song that sums up your frustration, "I don't want no more of the cheese, I just want out of the trap." *Maybe that's how you're feeling?*

But learn from Abigail... Rather than feel **stuck with your spouse**. She did two things: **she stuck by him** and **she stuck up for him**. And in the end, her life with Nabal shaped 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.

Of course, verse 43 reminds us that though we can learn from biblical characters, they lived in a different era with different customs. *For when Abigail enters her new household she finds that she has a roommate...*

"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..." David will ultimately add at least five more wives - who'll birth 21 children.

In Chapter 26 our 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 he almost caught up with David. Saul had David surrounded when he was called home to address a Philistine attack. God delivered David.

This time Saul's 3000 troops camp in the forest of Ziph. David sends spies that do such a good job with reconnaissance they know exactly where Saul sleeps.

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." General Abner was also his bodyguard. Saul slept at the center of 3000 troops.

Verse 7, "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." On the battlefield the king's spear was the equivalent of his scepter. This is why Saul always kept it by his side.

But imagine the feelings that spear conjured up in David. Saul had thrown it at him three times. That spear represented the king's unjust and abusive use of power. Abishai had also grown to hate that spear!

“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!" He's saying, David, that's the spear Saul threw at you, now let's throw it back. *And we'll only have to do it once!*

Here's a question, *what do you do when someone throws a spear at you? Almost everyone throws it back!* But David was not like everyone else. Thus, God trusted him with leadership. David knew how spiritual authority is to be used... We're inclined to bristle up! "*Don't get pushed around. Take a stand!*" David did take a stand, but it meant not throwing the spear thrown at him.

“But 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 will deal with Saul as He sees fit. God will take vengeance on the king, as he had the scoundrel.

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.”

David goes back to the other side of the valley, and calls to Abner. He taunts the king's bodyguard for not doing his job. He tells him to look for the king's spear and canteen. Abner spins around and realizes the two items are missing. *That's when Saul recognizes David's voice.* David asks Saul why does he constantly hunt down a man who only wants to serve his king?

Verse 21, “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.” And He certainly will!

“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.” These two men - whose lives were so intertwined - will never see each other again. A few years elapse before Saul is killed, and David crowned.