

after God's heart

a series on the life of King David



Ignoring the Voices Around Us

On Sunday, Pastor John preached on the story where David has a chance to kill Saul (and assume the throne), but chooses to spare Saul's life. Tonight we will be looking at a second chance David gets to kill Saul. Although David's compassion, Abishai, interprets the situation as God having delivered Saul into David's hands, David ignores Abishai's encouragement to kill Saul. Instead David maintains his position of refusing to harm Saul, who is God's anointed king. As we study this passage let's consider the voices around us that tempt us to do things we aren't supposed to do.

LOOKING BACK:

- Vision Statement: Explain the purpose of lifegroup.
- Introduction Question: What is one of your favorite moments of worship?
- Praise Reports and Prayer Requests.
- Accountability Question: How did I cultivate my heart or engage in worship this week?

LOOKING UP: 1 SAMUEL 26.7-21

7 So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him. **8** Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice." **9** But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? **10** As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. **11** But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go." **12** So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the Lord had put them into a deep sleep.

13 Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them. **14** He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, "Aren't you going to answer me, Abner?" Abner replied, "Who are you who calls to the king?" **15** David said, "You're a man, aren't you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn't you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king. **16** What you have done is not good. As surely as the Lord lives, you and your men must die, because you did not guard your

master, the Lord's anointed. Look around you. Where are the king's spear and water jug that were near his head?"

17 *Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is that your voice, David my son?" David replied, "Yes it is, my lord the king." 18 And he added, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of? 19 Now let my lord the king listen to his servant's words. If the Lord has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, people have done it, may they be cursed before the Lord! They have driven me today from my share in the Lord's inheritance and have said, 'Go, serve other gods.' 20 Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the Lord. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea—as one hunts a partridge in the mountains." 21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong."*

Discussion Prompts:

- What stands out to me from this passage?
- What do I learn about people?
- What do I learn about God?
- What do I learn about the voices of those around me?
- What do I learn about being a person after God's heart?

LOOKING FORWARD:

Being a person after God's heart is something each of us has to develop on our own. This isn't to say that community isn't valuable or we shouldn't receive the advice of others, but sometimes the voices of those around us can actually lead us away from being ones after God's heart. In tonight's passage, David demonstrates great character and wisdom by ignoring the advice of Abishai and choosing to honor God's chosen king instead.

- Ask God if there are ways I am being influenced by or listening more to the voices of those around me than his?
- What might God want to say to me instead?
- How can I intentionally create space to hear God's heart instead of being influenced by those around me this week?
- Who on my prayer map is heavily influenced by those around them instead of by God? How is God leading me to pray for them?
- Close by praying for each other to be people after God's heart.

In this upcoming week, let's keep creating space to become people after God's heart who seek his heart/guidance first above anything else!