

**Date:** 01.11.2020

**Time:** 11am

**Preacher:** Gavino Fioretti

**Psalms (read):** Psalm 33:1-9, Psalm 90:14-17

**Reading:** 1 Samuel 22

**Text :** 1 Samuel 22:23

**Outline:**

Introduction

Saul: the king of Israel

David: the future king of Israel

God: the true king of Israel

- **Introduction**

Last week, we saw David flee for his life. We saw him moved by fear and so he failed – he lied to the high priests and he went to the Philistines. In this chapter, David is a better example to us than he was in chapter 21.

### **1) Saul: the king of Israel**

**Unreasonable attitude:** Saul was obsessed with David and so concerned that all around him was conspiring against him with David. We see Saul again seated with a weapon in front of him. We see the obsession and fear in Saul. Saul has become unreasonable and obsessed. Saul summons the high priests, accusing them of conspiring with David. Saul doesn't believe his son, Jonathan, he doesn't believe the men in his army, or the high priests – he only trusts what's in his own mind.

**Unthinkable waste:** Saul spends the rest of his life not trying to defend Israel, but trying to kill David. Saul wastes all the resources and energies to pursue David, who was not an enemy. He neglected to watch for the real enemies, like the Philistines.

**Unbearable king:** Saul neglected the people and failed to serve them. The lack of leadership led people to be unhappy with him. David's family feared Saul. There were people in debt in the land – that meant there was no justice from the king – he wasn't providing for the poor and protecting them from the abuse of the rich. There were people distressed and bitter. When the government fails the people, there is fear and people become bitter. There was fear and tension because of the unpredictable nature of Saul. He caused his people to suffer.

**Unbelievable action:** The priests of the Lord were killed. The priests of the God of Israel were killed; they were anointed by God to speak for and intercede for the people. Saul ordered that the priests, those chosen by God, and their families were killed. The guard disobeyed the king by not killing the priests and so risked his own life – this guard would rather obey God than the king. Saul ordered that the Edomite kill the priests, but didn't stop there – the whole city of Nob had to be killed – men, women, children and animals. Who ordered this? The king of Israel, the one that the people had asked for and they looked to in order to protect them, and he turned on them and killed them. His duty was to protect his people, but because of his reprobate mind, he turned on the people of God and killed them. All of this was because he was

so obsessed with David. Saul was concerned for his father when we met him first. Filled, with the Spirit of God, he brought his people blessing. But now, he's lost God's favour – God left him alone. This started with compromise and went into a spiral of increasing sadness.

## **2) David: the future king of Israel**

**Caring:** He was concerned for his parents and wanted to protect them. As a good son, he provided shelter and protection for his family. There wasn't the police or the social welfare system we have today – David was providing for his parents. We saw Jesus on the cross caring for his mother, making sure that His best friend provided for His mother. He was caring for Abiathar. David was caring not just towards his family, but towards this man. People in debt and with despair came to David for counsel and protection. David shows himself to be a caring person.

**Obedience:** David does what God commanded him to do. Despite a strange command from God, he obeyed.

**Trust:** Behind David's obedience was trust. David trusted that God was in control. He trusted his commands. 400 men came to David – that could have been the time for David to take matters into his own hands and defeat his enemies. But David trusted that God had a plan and a purpose and trusted his timing. David trusted that God would do what He promised. David waited for God's time, and didn't take matters into his own hands.

**Admission:** vs 22. David admitted that he was responsible for the deaths of these people and admitted that to the only remaining member of the family. In the previous chapter, fear led David to lie. Now, he told the truth even though it was painful. There was a sincere confession of sin.

David gives us a good example to follow here. He was caring and obedient. It's not up to us to accomplish God's will. We need to confess our sins and to be honest before God to receive His forgiveness.

## **3) God: the true king of Israel**

**Care for His people:** We see this in God's command to go to Judah – God sent David to Judah to protect Judah. God provides for His people a Saviour, Judge and King to care for His people.

**Care for David:** Wherever David went, God prepared the way. David's family were granted protection in a place that wasn't their home. God prepared a place of protection for David in Judah. God had promised to David that he would be king and God does what He has promised.

**Care for Abiathar:** God in His providence preserves a remnant. Abiathar would be used by God for the good of His people. God provided someone they could go for for intercession and atonement. God doesn't remove His salvation from His people. God is at work, caring and providing for His people. He provided one who would be a mediator between the people and Him.

We're going through a time when many people are afraid. There's uncertainty and it is frightening. But on our side is the Lord – He's making sure His people are looked after and provided for. He will never leave us or forsake us. Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, He'll be with us. God is caring for us and will always care for us. God is a caring God.