**Lesson 29**

**1 Samuel 26:1-25 (NASB)**
1  Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding on the hill of Hachilah, *which is* before Jeshimon?"
2  So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.
3  Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness, *(I thought they had forgiven each other?)*
4  David sent out spies, and he knew that Saul was definitely coming.
5  David then arose and came to the place where Saul had camped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army; and Saul was lying in the circle of the camp, and the people were camped around him.
6  Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you."
7  So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him.
8  Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."
9  But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?"
10  David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish. *(wonder if this was prophecy or just thinking?)*
11  "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."
12  So David took the spear and the jug of water from *beside* Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew *it,* nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.
13  Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the mountain at a distance *with* a large area between them.
14  David called to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Will you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner replied, "Who are you who calls to the king?"
15  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? For one of the people came to destroy the king your lord.
16  "This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, *all* of you must surely die, because you did not guard your lord, the LORD'S anointed. And now, see where the king's spear is and the jug of water that was at his head."
17  Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."
18  He also said, "Why then is my lord pursuing his servant? For what have I done? Or what evil is in my hand?
19  "Now therefore, please let my lord the king listen to the words of his servant. If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering; but if it is men, cursed are they before the LORD, for they have driven me out today so that I would have no attachment with the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.'
20  "Now then, do not let my blood fall to the ground away from the presence of the LORD; for the king of Israel has come out to search for a single flea, just as one hunts a partridge in the mountains."
21  Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."
22  David replied, "Behold the spear of the king! Now let one of the young men come over and take it.
23  "The LORD will repay each man *for* his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into *my* hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed.
24  "Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress."
25  Then Saul said to David, "Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail." So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place. *(David let him go again, as he should)*

(5) Saul's final pursuit of David.

[Chapter 26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26). Once again **Saul** learned from **the Ziphites** about David's place of **hiding,** so the king and **3,000 chosen men** went to **the hill of Hakilah** (cf. [23:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A19)) in **the Desert of Ziph** to **search** for **David.** Again the Lord miraculously delivered His chosen one who this time came—with **Abishai,** a skilled and faithful soldier and **Joab's brother** ([26:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A6); cf. [2 Sam. 2:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+2%3A24); [10:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+10%3A14); [18:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+18%3A12); [21:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+21%3A17); [23:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+23%3A18))—so close to the sleeping king that **David** stole both his **spear and water jug** (1 Sam. [26:5-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A5-12)). Again **David** dared not harm **the Lord's anointed** ([vv. 9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A9), [11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A11), [23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A23); cf. [24:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+24%3A6), [10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+24%3A10)).

After crossing the ravine opposite Saul, **David** shouted **to Abner,** who supposedly guarded Saul, and tauntingly chided him for his carelessness in allowing **the king's spear and water jug** to be taken ([26:13-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A13-16)). **Saul** then awoke and once more heard David's plea that he be left alone. If God were leading Saul in the pursuit, then David would repent ([v. 19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A19)). **If, however, men** were responsible, they should **be cursed** by God because they had intervened in God's purposes by driving David **from** both his home (**inheritance,** [v. 19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A19)) and his public worship of God (**Go, serve other gods,** [v. 19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A19)).

So evident to **Saul** was God's protection of his young rival that he could only confess his own wickedness ([v. 21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A21)) and recognize fully and finally that **David** was destined to be the shepherd of Israel ([v. 25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A25)). So far as can be determined **Saul** became resigned to his fate and never again tried to interfere with the will of God for the kingdom and its next anointed leader (cf. [27:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A4)).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**Open it**

1. What are the duties of the bodyguards of famous and powerful people?
 **Protect those whom they are guarding at all costs against whatever comes**

2. What are some of the duties you have that prevent you from doing what you really want to do?
 **Money age lack of energy**

**Explore it**

3. How many troops did Saul take with him to hunt for David? ([26:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A2))
 **3000,** *Wonder what he was afraid of*

4. Where did David and Abishai find Saul? ([26:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A7))
 **Inside the circle of the camp with his guards around him**

5. What did Abishai assume when he realized that Saul was sleeping and vulnerable? ([26:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A8))
 **That he would be able to kill the king for David without fear**

6. Why did David prevent Abishai from killing Saul? ([26:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A9))
 **Cannot kill God’s anointed without consequences**

7. How had the Lord intervened for David when he entered Saul’s camp at night? ([26:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A12))
 **He put everyone into a deep sleep**

8. How did Saul recognize David from a distance? ([26:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A17))
 **By his voice**

9. What was David’s complaint against Saul? ([26:18-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A18-19))
 **That he was listening to man instead of God in his pursuit of David**

10. How did Saul react to having his life spared a second time? ([26:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A21))
 **He admitted he was being a fool and had committed an error**

11. On what terms did David and Saul part company? ([26:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+26%3A25))
 **Each let the other go in peace**

**Get it**

12. When David penetrated Saul’s camp at night, what was his mission?
 **To show Saul he wasn’t a bad man**

13. Why was the life of a fugitive on the outskirts of Israel particularly bitter for David?
 **He knew what the Lord had promised him and it wasn’t happening**

14. What was foolish about Saul’s behavior toward David up to this time?
 **He wasn’t listening to God but the evil spirit that had taken him over**

15. Why isn’t it wise to take every opportunity we are given for personal advancement and advantage?
 **Sometimes it comes back on you**

**Apply it**

16. In what concrete way can you value the life of someone who aggravates or opposes you?
 **By leaving them alone**

17. What would it mean to let God vindicate you when you encounter a conflict this week at work or at home?
 **Let God take control of the situation**