

In this chapter we will see David has another chance to kill Saul, but he spares him...again. While the circumstances of the situation certainly seem to point toward the action of ending Saul's life, David chooses differently. David chooses to trust the Lord and honor God's anointed king, rather than react to the circumstances he faces.

1 Samuel 26:1-25

David Spares

Saul's life...

Again

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

Humans of all persuasions are fond of looking for signs. Whether finding a four-leaf clover, spotting a black cat, or being born on Friday the thirteenth, we have a way of superstitiously interpreting our circumstances to mean things we wish they would, or hope they would not, simply in our effort to know the future. We long to know what the future has in store, or even how to interpret the present.

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW do superstitions reflect our human nature?

WHAT, if any, are some superstitions you give attention to?

CAN you identify some "Christian" versions of superstitions? In other words, **HOW** do we sometimes "spiritualize" events or situations in order to justify our actions or assume favor from God?

WHY do you think we create such versions of superstitions?

HOW can our circumstances influence our perspectives of "signs, omens, or superstitions"?

DESCRIBE how you deal with difficult circumstances?

1 Samuel 26:1-25

Read 1 Samuel 26:1-25

David Spares

Saul's life...

Again

OBSERVATION

Describe the setting, in your own words, as the chapter begins in vs. 1-4.

What does David ask of Abishai (vs.6)?

What do you observe from the text regarding Saul's susceptibility, and how does Abishai interpret these circumstances (vs. 8)?

What does David refuse to do and what does he do to demonstrate the opportunity he had (vs. 11)?

What does God do, specifically to protect David and Abishai?

How does David confront Saul's army (vs. 13-16)?

What observations can you make about Saul's response to David (vs. 21-25)?

INTERPRETATION

Who are the Ziphites and what kind of relationship do they have with Saul? See 1 Samuel 23:19-23 for help.

Who is Abishai? See 1 Chronicles 2:13-16 and 1 Samuel 26:6 for help. Why do you think he was so eager to give David assistance for such a difficult task?

Compare and contrast this opportunity David had to take Saul's life with the one he had in chapter 24. What similarities and differences can you see? What do you notice as David's primary focus for refusing to kill Saul?

As the passage closes, how do David's words communicate trust in God?

What is Saul's response to his recognition of the grace David extends to him in vs. 21-25? How is this different from his response in chapter 24 when David spares him?

APPLICATION

When you are faced with difficult circumstances, do you see them as being bigger than God, or God bigger than the circumstances? Explain your response.

Whatever current "circumstance" you face, how would it look to practically apply Philippians 4:4-6 to the situation?