

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 54]

SPARING SAUL'S LIFE - TAKE TWO

Reading: 1 Samuel 25: 1 - 12

Introduction

- Is this a case of *'déjà vu'*
- It seems like a repeat of the incident in [1 Samuel 24].
- Critics says they are 2 versions of the same event.
- No! There are too many differences. They are 2 similar but separate incidents.

1 The Ziphites

- [Vs 1]. We've meet these people in [Ch 23].
- They hailed from town of Ziph approx. 10 miles south of Jericho in territory of Judah.
- They were *'snitches'* or *'grasses'* revealing David's whereabouts to Saul.
- They were *'traitors.'* David was from Judah like them but Saul was from tribe of Benjamin.
- Don't be a *'Ziphite.'*

2 What Happened To Repentance?

- This is hard to believe. Had Saul not repented after David spared him the first time?
- Saul went home but it was a false dawn with regards to David.

- Saul clearly hadn't repented.
- NB. Repentance is essential to salvation.
- See [Matthew 3:2] [4:17], [Luke 13:3], [Acts 2:38].
- Repentance is a fruit/evidence of true conversion.
- Repentance is more than just saying '*sorry*.'
- It is radical, even painful.
- It is a lifelong posture and attitude evidenced by change.
- Saul hasn't repented. He's back to his wickedness and evil.

3 A Word About Abner

- Abner was a cousin of Saul and commander of Saul's army. [1 Samuel 14:50]
- He brought David to Saul after David killed Goliath [Ch 17:57].
- In [2 Samuel 3] he was joining David but was killed by Joab.
- Ahimelech the Hittite: a convert to Judaism and loyal soldier to David.
- Abishai: a nephew of David. [1 Chronicles 2:16].

4 The Sleeping Bodyguard

- Abner should have been standing guard over his king.
- There's a time to sleep but a time when it is dangerous to be asleep.
- Consider [Jonah 1:6], the sleeping virgins in [Matthew 25], parable of tares
- [Matthew 13], Eutychus [Acts 20] and disciples in [Matthew 26:41].
- Notice the relevance of [Romans 13:11].

5 Blessed Are The Merciful

- Mercy: Compassionate, kind, forgiving treatment of someone within one's power to punish or harm them.
- The Christian is someone who is the recipient of God's mercy and they ought also to be a dispenser of mercy.
- If you sow mercy, you will be sure to reap it.

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