

# **Recap of last week's study:**

## **Israel's Wilderness Transformation**

**Deut 8:1-20**

- As the Israelites face scarcity in the wilderness, God teaches them that life flows not from their own hands, but from God's word.
- How does Israel's wilderness journey reveal that true life is found not in abundance itself, but in trusting the one who provides it?

## **David Hides and Learns in the Wilderness**

- 1 Samuel 23: 6-14; 1 Samuel 24: 1-7

Hunted by King Saul, David takes refuge in the wilderness, where his path to kingship comes not by forceful dominance but by learning to trust and depend on God.

## 1 Samuel 23:6-14 NASB

<sup>6</sup> Now it came about, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand. <sup>7</sup> When it was reported to Saul that David had come to Keilah, Saul said, "God has handed him over to me, for he shut himself in by entering a city with double gates and bars." <sup>8</sup> So Saul summoned all the people for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men. <sup>9</sup> But David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here."

<sup>10</sup> Then David said, “LORD GOD of Israel, Your servant has heard for certain that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah to destroy the city on my account. <sup>11</sup> Will the citizens of Keilah hand me over to him? Will Saul come down just as Your servant has heard? LORD God of Israel, please, tell Your servant.” And the LORD said, “He will come down.” <sup>12</sup> Then David said, “Will the citizens of Keilah hand me and my men over to Saul?” And the LORD said, “They will hand you over.”

<sup>13</sup> Then David and his men, about six hundred, rose up and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When it was reported to Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the pursuit. <sup>14</sup> David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul searched for him every day, but God did not hand him over to him.

## **Consider -1**

Young David first captures national attention by defeating the Philistine giant warrior Goliath (1 Sam. 17), and his continued military success wins him the people's admiration. But David's popularity threatens King Saul, and after Saul hears songs praising David above himself (1 Sam. 18:6-16), he starts hunting David to kill him. David flees, and the wilderness provides safety.

## 1 Samuel 24:1-7 NASB

<sup>1</sup> Now when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, it was reported to him, saying, “Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.” <sup>2</sup> Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to search for David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Mountain Goats.

## Consider - 2

Ironically, the prophet Samuel has already anointed David as Israel's next king (1 Sam. 16:13)—the throne is rightfully his.

- Yet he makes no attempt to take it with violence.
- In the wilderness, he learns to entrust his future to God.

<sup>3</sup> And he came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

<sup>4</sup> Then David's men said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to hand your enemy over to you, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.'" Then David got up and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly. <sup>5</sup> But it came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe. <sup>6</sup> So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I would do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to reach out with my hand against him, since he is the LORD's anointed."

## Consider - 3

David follows God's guidance (1 Sam. 23:10-13) and twice refuses to kill Saul when given perfect opportunities—first when Saul is alone and vulnerable (relieving himself in a cave) and then while he's sleeping (1 Sam. 24:1-7, 26:1-12).

- The first scene portrays David in a stealth ambush position. But rather than cutting Saul down, David cuts fabric off the corner of Saul's robe, and even that strikes his heart with guilt.
- He expresses regret for raising his hand against the Lord's anointed (1 Sam. 24:4-6).

<sup>7</sup> And David rebuked his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul got up, left the cave, and went on his way.

## Consider - 4

As a setting, the wilderness recalls Israel long ago grumbling against God after he brought them out of Egypt.

- But in the same place, this new king, David, learns what the wilderness often teaches—deep, sincere trust in God.
- He does not manipulate or wield power to secure God's blessing; he waits on God to provide it when and how God intends.
- David's self-restraint and strong trust in God distinguish him as a leader after God's own heart (see 1 Sam. 13:14).

## **Reflect**

God could have made David king immediately after his anointing, but instead, David spends years in the wilderness as a fugitive.

- How does this season of waiting and testing prepare David for ruling as king?
- Have you ever sensed a time of waiting and testing to prepare you for something God has revealed to you?

## **Relevant Scripture**

- Psalm 63 (A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah)

Next week preview:

## **Garden to Wilderness to Garden**

Jer 4: 23-26; Hos 2: 14-20; Isa 51:3

- The prophets use wilderness and garden imagery to describe Israel's journey.
- They warn that rejecting God leads to desolation, but God ultimately promises restoration and a return to the abundance of Eden.

Source:

[The Wilderness in the Bible | David Hides and  
Learns in the Wilderness](#)

x tbd