

"BUILDING YOUR SPIRITUAL RESUME"

1 Samuel 26-28

Our Pastor Search Team is praying and seeking the face of God as they begin to search for our new pastor. During the next phase of their work, they will receive resumes.

A resume is a brief account of one's personal, educational, spiritual, experience, and professional qualifications that would make the person a good fit for the job.

Tonight we're going to study another section of 1 Samuel that highlights the life of David. He's been on the run for about 10 years by this time. King Saul has been breathing down his neck with the ultimate goal of killing him. To be frankly honest with you, Saul's spiritual resume was a disaster! A quick glance at it would cause any person in their right mind to disqualify him from consideration for any role.

God was using these trials that David went through to develop his spiritual resume. All of this was done for the purpose of preparing him to be the next king of Israel. In fact, he would become Israel's most influential king!

Let's consider how to build *your spiritual resume*. Broken down into its simplest form, here's how it works . . .

- **Before you are saved, God works on you.**
- **After you are saved, God works in you.**
- **For the rest of your life, God works through you.**

That's how your spiritual resume is built. Keep in mind now, we're not competing for a job. We're getting ready to stand before the Lord . . .

2 Corinthians 5:9–10 ... Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Chapter 26

1 Samuel 26:1–4 ... 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, 4 David sent out spies, and he knew that Saul was definitely coming.

Flip back to chapter 24. If you'll remember, David had a tailor-made opportunity to kill King Saul in the cave at Engedi. Though his men urged him to finish off his nemesis, David would not lay a hand on God's anointed. When Saul learned about his brush with fate, he replied to David **[Read 24:16-22]**.

God gave Saul a second chance. Despite this golden opportunity, Saul once again was on a mission to kill David. His earlier words in chapter 24 were filled with remorse, but they were lacking in genuine repentance. What happened next was flat out amazing . . .

1 Samuel 26:6–12 ... 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. 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.

David and Abishai, with the help of God, made their way through 3000 of Saul's men and got within striking distance of Saul. David refused to lay a hand on God's anointed. He did take Saul's spear and jug of water as evidence that he had once again spared Saul's life. When he called out to Abner, Saul recognized his voice and said . . .

1 Samuel 26:17–25 ... 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.

This is the last conversation King Saul and David will ever have. David wrote Psalm 54 at this juncture in his life. **[Read Psalm 54]**

What can we learn from this chapter about building our spiritual resume?

BUILDING YOUR SPIRITUAL RESUME . . .

1. Trust God to make things right.

- You can't do this if you take matters into your own hand!
- Even though David may not have respected the person Saul became, He respected the position of authority God entrusted to him!

Chapter 27

1 Samuel 27:1–4 . . . Then David said to himself, "Now I will perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape into the land of the Philistines. Saul then will despair of searching for me anymore in all the territory of Israel, and I will escape from his hand." 2 So David arose and crossed over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. 3 And David lived with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's widow. 4 Now it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath, so he no longer searched for him.

I want you to notice that David is talking to himself in verse 1. He's not talking to God. In fact, God's name cannot be found in this chapter. David, the man after God's own heart, is discouraged. He was in such a bad place that he thought there was safety in enemy territory. I'll tell you. It's a tool of the devil!

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Once upon a time the devil decided to have a garage sale, because he wanted to clear out some of his old tools to make room for new ones. After he set up his wares, a fellow dropped by to see what he had. Arrayed on a long table were all the tricks of his infernal trade. Each tool had a price tag . . .

- "Anger—\$250"
- "Sloth—\$380"
- "Criticism—\$500"
- "Jealousy—\$630"
- "Discouragement—\$12,000"

Curious, the man asked the devil why he would offer a worn-out piece of junk for such an exorbitant price. The devil said it was expensive because he used it so much. *"Why do you use it so much?"* the man asked. The devil said, *"It always works when nothing else will."*

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There's a lesson for us here in verse 1. We must monitor our thoughts and words when we are dealing with discouragement. Filter your subjective feelings and thoughts through the objective truth of God's Word.

Look at the last part of verse 1. Discouragement demolished David's perspective. He had received confirmation that he would be the next king of Israel no less than 4 times (Samuel, Jonathan, Saul, Abigail). By this time, his faith was cratering. This led to actions that dishonored the Lord. How sad it is that the hero of Israel was referred to as *"the servant of Achish"* several times in chapter 27. He lived out of the will of God for 16 months!

1 Samuel 27:2–7 . . . So David arose and crossed over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. 3 And David lived with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's widow. 4 Now it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath, so he no longer searched for him. 5 Then David said to Achish, "If now I have found favor in your sight, let them give me a place in one of the cities in the country, that I may live there; for why should your servant live in the royal city with you?" 6 So Achish gave him Ziklag that day; therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to

this day. 7 The number of days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months.

During this time David did what he thought was best. David is caught in a terrible downward spiral and the worst is still to come. As a result, his integrity took a nosedive! **[verses 8-12]** David attacked these villages without God's permission, without provocation, under false pretenses, and with unnecessary cruelty. David exposed his 600 men and their families to the consequences of living outside of the will of God!

What can we learn from this chapter about building our spiritual resume?

BUILDING YOUR SPIRITUAL RESUME . . .

1. Trust God to make things right.

- You can't do this if you take matters into your own hand!
- Even though David may not have respected the person Saul became, He respected the position of authority God entrusted to him!

2. Remain committed when you are discouraged.

- Never allow yourself to become a servant of the enemy (James 4:7).
- Keep your eyes on Jesus and follow His example (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Chapter 28

1 Samuel 28:3-7 ... Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had removed from the land those who were mediums and spiritists. 4 So the Philistines gathered together and came and camped in Shunem; and Saul gathered all Israel together and they camped in Gilboa. 5 When Saul saw the camp of the Philistines, he was afraid and his heart trembled greatly. 6 When Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by prophets. 7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek

for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at En-dor."

We need to understand that there comes a time in a rebellious person's life when God will give them over to the life they've chosen [**Romans 1:18 ff**]. That seems to be the case in Saul's life. Look at verse 6. What a sad situation! Saul makes things infinitely worse by turning to the realm of the demonic—the *witch of Endor*.

1 Samuel 28:8–14 ... Then Saul disguised himself by putting on other clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, "Conjure up for me, please, and bring up for me whom I shall name to you."
9 But the woman said to him, "Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who are mediums and spiritists from the land. Why are you then laying a snare for my life to bring about my death?" **10** Saul vowed to her by the LORD, saying, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing." **11** Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me." **12** When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul." **13** The king said to her, "Do not be afraid; but what do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a divine being coming up out of the earth." **14** He said to her, "What is his form?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped with a robe." And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and did homage.

This scene has been debated in theological circles for a long time. Was this a demon posing as Samuel, or was this Samuel himself appearing to the woman? Whatever the case, we need to understand that this is a very unusual thing. Let's read on.

1 Samuel 28:15–19 ... Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am greatly distressed; for the Philistines are waging war against me, and God has departed from me and no longer answers me, either through prophets or by dreams; therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I should do." **16** Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary? **17** "The LORD has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the LORD has torn the

kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David. 18 "As you did not obey the LORD and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the LORD has done this thing to you this day. 19 "Moreover the LORD will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed the LORD will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines!"

I'm relatively sure this is actually Samuel. The sovereign God allowed this this witch to call up the prophet Samuel for a purpose. Think about it. In this scene, "Samuel" used the covenant name of God 7 times [LORD—"Yahweh"]. Furthermore, the prophecy Samuel shared came true exactly as it was stated here.

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2. Remain committed when you are discouraged.

- Never allow yourself to become a servant of the enemy (James 4:7).
- Keep your eyes on Jesus and follow His example (Hebrews 12:1-3).

3. Stand firm in the Lord's strength.

- Ephesians 5:11, Ephesians 6:10-13
- Avoid seances, tarot cards, Ouija Boards, psychic readings, etc.