

**SERMON TITLE: Walk Away from the Spear**

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 26**

**SERMON SERIES: Seeking God's Kingdom**

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### **Sermon Manuscript**

Last week we talked about the fact that...

**[SLIDE 1] God's wisdom often comes through unexpected voices.**

Here's an example.

Earlier this week I heard how God was speaking to one of you through a song by Danny Gokey called, *Haven't Seen It Yet*.

The song wrestles with moments when we're pouring out our heart in prayer... Hoping that things would've changed by now... But we're not hearing any answers.

Then, in verse two, Danny says this...

**[SLIDE 2] "He had the solution before you had the problem."  
(Haven't Seen It Yet, by Danny Gokey, 2019)**

The person that emailed me said they've heard this song many times... But hearing it now, in this season of life... They said it brought them a "tremendous amount of comfort."

When I read that,  
I was actually reminded of Hannah's prayer when she said:  
"the LORD is a God who knows" (1 Samuel 2:3).

In other words...

**The LORD had the solution before we had the problem. He knows.**

We saw this last week in 1 Samuel 25.  
 When David's character was attacked by Abigail's husband Nabal...  
 His sword came out.

**But God's voice of wisdom came through an unexpected person.**

**[SLIDE 3] Abigail's words of wisdom were a reminder that the battle is the LORD's.**

David didn't need to act in violence.  
**And the LORD proved it.**

Not only did the LORD provide food and water for David's people...  
 But Nabal ended up dying...  
 Which gave David the opportunity to marry Abigail...

**And I know... *this feels weird!***  
 Because by the end of chapter 25,  
 David now has multiple wives...  
 Even though Scripture warned against this.

So what's the deal here? Well...

**[SLIDE 4] Marriage in the ancient world wasn't always about romance.  
 Marriage was a way to connect families and their resources together.**

So, after Nabal died and David married Abigail...  
 It's possible that his people now benefited from Nabal's resources.

This is a critical little detail in the text.  
 David's army had grown to about 600 men.  
 Add to that their wives and children...  
 And David probably easily had over 1000 people following him.

**That's a major problem.**  
**Not only is that a lot of people to feed...**  
**But look at *where* they were...**

1 Samuel 26:1-2 says they were staying in the wilderness, near the area of Jeshimon.

Jeshimon is a desert wasteland.

***So how in the world were 1000+ people surviving in the desert?***

All I can say for sure is this...

**[SLIDE 5] God had the solution before David had the problem.**

This whole multiple wives thing could be just a quiet reminder, that God was providing for His people.

And now, at the beginning of chapter 26...

David was facing another problem...

Saul was searching for David again...

This time with 3000 of his elite soldiers.

It seemed like Saul backed off after the cave incident...

But that didn't last long.

So when David learned Saul's army was close,

He decided to take one of his men and sneak into Saul's camp at night.

**[SLIDE 6] 1 Samuel 26:7 - So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.**

**[SLIDE 7] 1 Samuel 26:8 - Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice."**

**We've seen this spear before.**

This isn't just any old spear...

This is *the king's spear*.

## [SLIDE 8] Pic of Saul and his Spear

Back in the early days, when hardly anyone in Israel had proper weapons, Saul and Jonathan were the only ones who carried a sword and spear.

**The spear is the one thing we keep seeing by Saul's side.**

It's also the one thing Saul *didn't* give to David before facing Goliath.

The spear showed up again while David played music in the palace...

This is when Saul hurled the spear at David... twice.

It's the same spear he used to try and kill his own son.

It was also with him when he ordered the priests at Nob to be killed...

And when he searched for David in the wilderness.

So what we've been seeing is that, over time...

**Saul's spear becomes more than a weapon...**

**It becomes a symbol of power through violence.**

**And it's the one thing he refused to let go.**

And now...

## [SLIDE 9] Pic of Saul's spear in the ground

David sees that same spear,  
stuck in the ground beside Saul's head while he sleeps.

David could end everything right now.

Abishai was right.

God did deliver David's enemy into his hands.

But just like in the cave... God didn't tell David what to do.

This was another test of David's heart.

**Will David react in violence?**

**Or will he choose to reflect God's heart?**

Here's what happens...

**[SLIDE 10] 1 Samuel 26:9-10 - But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD's anointed and be guiltless? As surely as the LORD lives," he said, "the LORD himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.**

**[SLIDE 11] 1 Samuel 26:11 - But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."**

**[SLIDE 12] 1 Samuel 26:12 - So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep.**

### **Why not kill Saul?**

This almost seems like an answer to prayer.

After all...

The LORD is the One who kept Saul and his men from waking up.

This was David's chance to finally end Saul's reign.

But in this moment...

**[SLIDE 13] David chose to follow the wisdom God spoke through Abigail.**

Remember what she told him?

She basically said:

*Don't stain your future as king with the blood of personal revenge.*

*Trust the LORD to fight your battles.*

And honestly...

I think this is why David snuck into Saul's camp.

I don't think David went there to kill Saul.

That's what Abishai thought...

But David had other plans.

He wanted to prove yet again, that...

**[SLIDE 14] Even though Saul was trying to kill him, David still honored Saul as the LORD's king.**

And he'd prove it by taking the very symbol of violence that Saul wouldn't let go.

So David and Abishai took Saul's spear and water jug...

They snuck out of Saul's camp...

Made their way across the valley...

And called out to Saul's army.

When Saul heard David's voice,

He said: *Is that your voice, David my son?*

David said...

**[SLIDE 15] 1 Samuel 26:17b-19a - "Yes it is, my lord the king." And he added, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of? Now let my lord the king listen to his servant's words. If the LORD has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, people have done it, may they be cursed before the LORD!"**

In other words, David's saying to Saul...

*Who convinced you that I've wronged you?*

*Is it the LORD?*

*Or is it your own people?*

David then says something really important...

**[SLIDE 16] 1 Samuel 26:19b - They [Saul's people] have driven me today from my share in the LORD's inheritance and have said, 'Go, serve other gods.'**

David's saying Saul's own people are deceiving him.

It's Saul's people who are driving David away from the LORD's inheritance.

He's talking about the land of Israel...  
 David feels like he's being driven away  
 from the place where Yahweh's people belong.

Because when they say,  
 "Go, serve other gods" ...  
 That's the same as saying:  
*You don't belong among the LORD's people anymore.*

Because in the biblical worldview...  
 Nations and their land were connected to spiritual authority.

**What separated nations weren't just borders...  
 It was the gods they worshiped.**

And so David says...

**[SLIDE 17] 1 Samuel 26:20 - Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far  
 from the presence of the LORD...**

David's saying:  
*Don't drive me away from the LORD's inheritance.  
 Don't force me out from among His people.  
 I belong to Yahweh God...  
 Not the gods of the nations.*

So Saul says...

**[SLIDE 18] 1 Samuel 26:21 - "I have sinned. Come back, David my son.  
 Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you  
 again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong."**

How many times has Saul admitted he was wrong?  
 Several.

How many times did Saul truly repent from the way he treated David?  
 Zero.

One scholar I read this week said Saul was about as sincere as a politician.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Ronn Johnson, The Naked Bible Podcast, 1 Samuel 26, Episode 475.

We don't know if David believed him.  
 I would guess not.  
 Because instead of crossing the valley to come over to Saul...  
 David just said...

**[SLIDE 19] 1 Samuel 26:22-24 - "Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it. The LORD rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The LORD delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the LORD's anointed. As surely as I valued your life today, so may the LORD value my life and deliver me from all trouble."**

"The LORD rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness."

David's saying:

*This is what it looks like to trust the LORD instead of grasping for power.*

**[SLIDE 20] righteousness and faithfulness**

**"Righteousness" means "doing right by others."**

David acted in righteousness by honoring Saul as the LORD's anointed king.

**And "faithfulness" carries the sense of "loyalty."**

David's loyalty is in Yahweh God alone.

Even when his own people were convinced he should kill Saul...

David didn't listen.

Instead, he continued to listen to the wisdom of the LORD.

This is why he's said to be a man after God's own heart.

And so David does the right thing.

Because of his loyalty to the LORD...

He does something Saul couldn't do...

As everyone watched...

He let the king's spear go.

**[SLIDE 21] David gave the very symbol of power and violence back to its rightful owner.**

This echoes something David learned long ago.

When he was standing in the valley...

Facing Goliath...

Who was the very embodiment of power and violence...

David said:

**[SLIDE 22] 1 Samuel 17:45, 47 - "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty... All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's."**

And now...

**[SLIDE 23] Pic of David walking away**

After refusing to kill Saul in his sleep...

Everyone could see that David chose to let go and trust the LORD.

**David refused to *take* God's kingdom,  
In the way that Saul tried to *keep* it.**

And so, in front of everyone...

David put down the king's spear...

And walked away.

Saul sent someone to get it...

Then he returned home.

**So what we're seeing today in David is a man after God's own heart.  
He's trusting in the LORD's wisdom and strength rather than his own.**

He would agree with the Psalm that says...

**[SLIDE 24] Psalm 46:8-9 - Come and see what the LORD has done ... He breaks the bow and shatters the spear...**

And the same LORD that shatters the spear...

Is the LORD who was pierced by the spear for us.

After Jesus died on the cross...

**[SLIDE 25] John 19:34, 36-37 - ...one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear ... These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."**

And so...

Saul used the spear for violence.  
He was desperate to preserve his kingdom.

David walked away from the spear.  
He wasn't going to follow in the ways of Saul.

And Jesus received the spear...  
After giving His life on our behalf.

But not just giving His life...  
Jesus conquered death...  
He shattered the spear.

The spear symbolizes violence... fear... power...  
even death itself.

But through the resurrection of Jesus...  
The spear has been rendered powerless.  
It's shattered.

And now, anyone who puts their trust in Jesus,  
will be saved.

Because when we come to Jesus out of a loyal love and trust in Him...  
**Not even death itself can stop the saving power of Jesus.**

So, like David...

**[SLIDE 26] When we trust the LORD, He gives us the strength to walk away from the spear.**

We can refuse the desire for power and control,  
because the strength of the LORD Almighty is with us.

### **That's Pentecost.**

Pentecost reminds us that Jesus has not left His people alone.

Through His Spirit...

The Holy Spirit...

He's still forming us after His own heart.

He's the One who leads us to truth.

And so, this morning...

**We want to remember and honor the sacrifice that Jesus made for us  
by participating in holy communion together.**

### **[SLIDE 27] Communion**

**At this time I'd like to invite the worship team up...**

And as they come forward,

Let's pray.

*Lord, thank You for the truth of Your Word.*

*Thank You that even when we're walking our own valleys,*

*You're always with us.*

*And now, as we take communion...*

*We remember Your love for us...*

*Your body broken for us...*

*And Your sacrifice for our sins.*

*We do ask that You would forgive us of our sins.*

*Help us to let go of the things that drive us away from You,*

*And shape our hearts to look more like Yours.*

*We pray in the matchless Name of Jesus...*

*Amen.*

God's Word says that *everyone* who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved from their sins and adopted into His forever family — *everyone*.

Let this moment of communion be a reminder...  
That God does not stand at a distance from our lives.  
The LORD Almighty is with us...  
He is our refuge and strength.  
Therefore, we can be still and know that He is God.

And so...

When we take the bread and cup,  
Jesus says: *"Do this in remembrance of me."*

The bread we're about to take reminds us that His body was given for us.  
And the cup reminds us of His blood,  
poured out for the forgiveness of sins.

Go ahead and take the bread and cup...  
And as you do...  
Take a moment to reflect on Jesus and His faithfulness.

[...]

**Let's Pray**