

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST May 24, 2020



When Did David Practice SOCIAL DISTANCING?

Written by Mike Benson

There are a total of 222 recorded prayers in the Bible—176 in the Old Testament and 46 in the New Testament. Nearly one out of every four of those prayers chronicled in Scripture were uttered by Jesse's son, David.

David was a man of prayer. Ironically, 1 Samuel 27 records an aberration—an odd occasion when this mighty hero of the faith failed to make inquiry of God. Contextually, this notable prayer-void was during that lengthy period of time when David was being pursued by King Saul (cf. 1 Samuel 21-31). The Bible says, *“And David said in his heart, ‘Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to see me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand’”* (1 Sam. 27:1 NKJV).

Consider a few, important observations from this text. Note: *“David said in his heart...”* The ancients believed that the heart was the seat of the emotions. When Samuel recorded that *“David said in his HEART,”* we recognize that the internal conversation David held was probably more about what he was feeling than what he was thinking. And what was he feeling? The very fact that he was continually fleeing for his life tells us that he was feeling fatigue and fear.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for all ages & fellowship for lunch every Sunday!

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell JoeOwen

Andy Ratliff Tim Wilkes, II

John Wofford

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

"I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul.." When we recount the fact that just in 1 Samuel chapters 18 and 19, Saul tried to kill David at least twelve times (cf. 18:11, 13, 17, 20ff; 19:1, 10, 11ff, 19:18ff), it's easy to imagine that David felt a certain inevitability about his demise. It was a done deal from his perspective. Sooner or later Saul would eventually catch up with him and either murder him himself or do so by some external means.

The problem was, *David actually knew better*. He knew he'd survive all of those assassination attempts. Back in 1 Samuel 16, Samuel had already, with God's authority, anointed David to be the next king of Israel (vv. 12-13). In chapter 23 his best friend, Jonathan, had reassured him that he would possess the throne (v. 17). In chapter 25, his wife, Abigail, reminded her husband that the Lord would keep His promise and elevate David as Israel's next ruler (v. 30). Even Saul himself admitted it (24:20)!

And yet, David in his weariness and languor, had somehow managed to forget what God had said through his various peers. David's feelings of fear trumped and overshadowed God's truth—at least for the moment. But now watch again:

"There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape..." Wait, what?! "NOTHING better, David?!" David, the praying man, the man after God's own heart, the man who had in his earlier days killed a lion, a bear, and a giant, now decided that there was nothing better for him to do than to tuck-tail and change zip codes!

And here's where the rubber met the road. ***Instead of praying for divine guidance on the matter of Saul's relentless pursuit, David decided to socially-distance himself from the king—and in so doing, he simultaneously distanced himself from the Almighty.*** David left Israelite territory and went to (are you ready for this?), the Philistine city of Gath—again, (Goliath's old home!) and resided there for a year and four months (v. 7)! So what can we learn from this prayer-less time in David's life?

1. When we, like David, allow our feelings to take precedence in our thinking, we inevitably, inexorably start trusting in our own wisdom and in our own selves instead of God. Think about a few similar examples. When Abraham lied, not once, but twice about his wife's identity (Gen. 12:10-20; 20:2), he was being controlled by his own fear rather than trusting in the wisdom of God. When Sarah laughed at God's promise of a future son, she was trusting in her own feelings instead of God (Gen. 18:12-15). When Moses struck the rock, instead of speaking to it as instructed, he was elevating his own feelings of anger over the wisdom of God (Num. 20:11). Peter started walking out on the water toward his Lord, but when he took his eyes off of Jesus and saw the strong wind, he succumbed to his fear instead of trusting in the Son of God (Mat. 14:30). That's why ...

... Jeremiah warned, “O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer. 10:23; cf. Prov. 14:12; Luke 18:9). Remember, Church—pain, suffering and adversity can blind us to the wisdom and power of God to such a point that we listen to our own wisdom, which, in turn, effectively cancels out the wisdom of God.

2. The devil wants us, like David, to dwell in enemy territory; he wants us to start living in Gath. When David fled from Saul and started living outside of Israel, he may have escaped Saul, but he didn’t completely separate himself from his foes. On the contrary, he actually compromised God’s will and allied himself with Achish—a Philistine lord/king (vv. 5ff)!

Christians sometimes to do the same thing, don’t they? On occasion, when they’re weary and afraid, they think with their feelings and justify taking residence in the adversaries’ domain (cf. 1 Pet. 5:8). How many Christians have tried to escape their incessant pain, and in turn, fled to a bottle of alcohol or illicit drugs (Prov. 20:1)? How many children of God have sought to escape the problems within their own hurting marriages only to run headlong into the arms of other broken relationships (Prov. 6:32; cf. Rom. 6:1)? How many members of the body of Christ have, like David, experienced long-term, wearisome heartache, and then given themselves permission to run to pornography in the enemy’s territory (Mat. 5:27-28; 1 Cor. 6:18)? How many saints in God’s kingdom have left the obstacles within their own congregation’s fellowship, only to take up residence with those in the denominational world outside of Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 2:12)? How many elderships at large, and shepherds individually, have ignored and seemingly liberated themselves from a dilemma within their flock, and in so doing, have actually fled to the adversaries’ province because they refused to lead and be active as the Lord requires (cf. Acts 20:28ff; Jas. 4:17)?

Beloved, running, leaving, and or fleeing is never the answer to our troubles. Paul asked rhetorically, “*What then shall we say to these things? IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US*” (Rom. 8:31—emphasis mine, mb)?! And the answer is? Nobody! David knew that, he was controlled by his fear, and he ran anyway.

Dear reader, are you, like David, trying to escape from your Saul? Have you fled from the relentless pursuit of your problems and then run right into the very thing you disdain? God pleads for you to stop running—and turn your cares over to Him. “*Casting all you care upon Him, for He cares for you*” (1 Pet. 5:7; Psa. 102:7; Jer. 29:12; Phil. 4:6).

**(I removed one paragraph and edited for space contstraints;
Full article can be found at www.sixthavenuechurch.org)**

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Clarence & Faye Edwards, Clarence has walking pneumonia;. **Seth & Jan Daniel**; **Wiley Tuggle**; **Sammy Williams**; **Inez Neyman**.

Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters

Family & Friends

Charles Savage, Lara's dad, recovering from back surgery; **Joy Angel**, Clifton's older sister, has pericarditis along with continual health issues; **Maples & Cooper families**, Sandra Maples Cooper passed; **Jennie Thornton & family**, her mom passed away; **Carleigh Miller**, daughter to Kevin & Melanie Miller, born prematurely; **Several** out of work; **Martha Williams**, Amanda Lyon's grandmother, dementia.

Birthdays

5/7 Aiyanna Meredith	5/15 Andy Ratliff
5/7 Brad Gregory	5/18 Mitchell Arnold
5/9 David Angel	5/25 Jarrett Davis
5/10 Amanda Lyons	5/25 Davis Johnson

Anniversaries

5/15	Jason & Ginger Bayless
5/17	Joe & Leigh Anne Owen
5/19	Seth & Jan Daniel
5/23	Johnny & Stephanie Bayless
5/26	Jimmy & Virginia Sowell
5/31	Billy & Terry Bland

Get Involved!

May 17: Assembling IN Building, 10:30 AM
Please take care to practice healthy distancing

May 20: Youth Bible Class on Zoom, 5 PM
We are grateful to the Ferrell's for their providing this during this time of isolation

May 20: Adult Bible Class, FBLive, 7:25 PM

Coldwater VBS Cancelled

SLCC May & June Sessions Cancelled

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, May 24

Morning

Prayer Before Class	
Announcements	Jim Jackson
Song Leader	Noah Davis
Opening Prayer	Jerry Davis
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper:	Tim Wilkes, II
Preside	

Assist

Closing Prayer	Billy Bland
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Afternoon

Song Leader	
Opening Prayer	
Sermon	
Lord's Supper	

**TEMPORARILY
CANCELLED**

Closing Prayer

Wednesday, May 27

Song Leader	
Prayer	
Invitation	
Prayer	

**ONLINE
CLASSES**

TECH:	Andy Ratliff
HALL:	