

Mentor Turns Enemy vs Mentee in Waiting for God *The King and the People Series*

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What We Will Learn

- Example of mentor vs mentee relationship that turned deadly against mentee
- David thrived in military service under Saul
- Departed when he recognized he could not contain Saul's threat to his life
- Departure from Saul saved David's life
- Saul declared war intending to kill David
- 1 Samuel 23

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Recall

- David thrived in Saul's service
- Reputation as effective leader grew in Israel
- Believed in growing in Saul's service
- Recognized threat from Saul against his life
- Loyal to Saul but vigilant to protect himself
- Decided he could not contain Saul's threat
- Departed from Saul to save his life

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Saul Declares War Against David

- Was informed David and followers were in gated city Keilah
- Saul mustered up his army
- Announced he would besiege Keilah
- Only purpose of siege was to kill David
- Saul had intelligence sources on David
- David had intelligence sources on Saul
- 1 Samuel 23:7-13

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1 Samuel 23 (NKJV)

7 And Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. So Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars."

8 Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

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1 Samuel 23 (NKJV)

9 When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here."

10 Then David said, "O Lord God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake.

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1 Samuel 23 (NKJV)

11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O Lord God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant."

And the Lord said, "He will come down."

12 Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?"

And the Lord said, "They will deliver you."

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1 Samuel 23 (NKJV)

13 So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.

- Concerned about himself and followers
- About possible destruction of Keilah
- Determined leaving city was better

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Saul Searches for David

- David and his men hid in the wilderness
- Saul searched frantically for David
- Jonathan visited and encouraged David
- Villagers offered to lead Saul to David
- Saul came close to catching David
- Was called back to defend against Philistines
- Enemies and informants among the people
- 1 Samuel 23:14–17, 19–20, and 25–29

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1 Samuel 23 (NIV)

14 David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands.

15 While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life.

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1 Samuel 23 (NIV)

16 And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God.

17 "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this."

- David accepted Jonathan's exhortation
- But understood he had to work to evade Saul

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1 Samuel 23 (NIV)

19 The Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah and said, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hakilah, south of Jeshimon?"

20 Now, Your Majesty, come down whenever it pleases you to do so, and we will be responsible for giving him into your hands."

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1 Samuel 23 (NIV)

25 Saul and his men began the search, and when David was told about it, he went down to the rock and stayed in the Desert of Maon. When Saul heard this, he went into the Desert of Maon in pursuit of David.

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1 Samuel 23 (NIV)

26 Saul was going along one side of the mountain, and David and his men were on the other side, hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his forces were closing in on David and his men to capture them,

27 a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Come quickly! The Philistines are raiding the land."

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1 Samuel 23 (NIV)

28 Then Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to meet the Philistines. That is why they call this place Sela Hammahlekoth.

29 And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of En Gedi.

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David's Choice

- Mentee David escaped from mentor Saul
- Used human skill and God's guidance
- David recognized
 - Saul was powerful against him
 - Had no authority to kill him
 - But was determined to kill him
- He chose avoidance from Saul
- Maintain safe distance from Saul

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What We Learned

- Saul declared war against David
- Sole objective was to kill David
- Mentor turned enemy against mentee
- David escaped to safe distance from Saul
- Relocated often to avoid Saul
- Lesson for mentor vs mentee relationships
- When mentor sees mentee as competitor

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