

Week of November 16: 1 Samuel 23

Intercession, Obedience and the Sovereignty of God



Observation

1. Read 1 Samuel 23. What do you notice as you read?

2. What questions do you have?

Observation: What does it say?

1. What do you notice about the text? Things to look for:

- repeating words and phrases
- Answers to the questions: who, what, when, where and how?
- contrasts and comparisons
- similes and metaphors (images used in the text)
- cause and effect relationships
- details regarding: time, geography, place, people, action in the text
- grammar
- larger themes in the passage
- key words and themes

2. What questions do you have?

Interpretation

1. What is the purpose of the ephod mentioned in verse 6 and 9? (See Exodus 28:6-14 and 29-30)

2. In verse 7, Saul believes that God had handed David over to him. How do we know this is not the case? Why do you think that Saul misinterpreted God's action here?

3. What relationship do you see in this passage between prayer and hearing from God?

Interpretation

The goal here is to answer questions raised by the text and to get at the central message of the passage itself.

What did the text mean for the original audience?

How might you summarize the central point of the passage?

Application

1. Today, how do we determine God's will? (Some examples from the New Testament might be: John 14:23-26, Romans 12:2, Acts 13:2-3, etc.) What might cause us to misunderstand what God is doing or how he is leading us?

Suggestions for Prayer

Pray through Psalm 23: Read each verse one at a time and then leave a few minutes to pray before moving on to the next verse.