

Devotional from Pastor Ho
September 3, 2020

1 Samuel 23:14, *“And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.”*

Most of us can relate really well with this story. David was told that the people of Keilah were being bullied by the Philistines. Before he did anything, David inquired of the Lord, who told him to save Keilah. But David’s men reminded him that he himself was on the run from Saul. If he aggravated the Philistines, he could face assaults from both fronts. For a second time David inquired of the Lord, who assured him of success. Indeed, David was able to deliver the people of Keilah. Sure enough, Saul got wind of David’s whereabouts and was immediately on his way. When David knew about it, he asked God whether the people of Keilah would hand him over to Saul. The answer was yes. David was then on the run again, but God did not give him into Saul’s hand (1 Sam 23:1-14).

Most of us have certainly been in David’s shoes, when we go out of our way to help someone who turns out to be ungrateful. Not only is the favor not returned, but we are outright betrayed. This often brings regret on our part, and we inevitably have ourselves to blame for such naivete. Yet the biblical text in verse 14b turns us to a different direction: “And Saul sought [David] every day, but God did not give [David] into [Saul’s] hand.” We are immediately reminded that this is not merely the horizontal relationship between Saul and David, but as always, the Most High God is involved. Because it was God who told David to save Keilah, God is also responsible for David not to fall into Saul’s hand. When Saul was closing in on David, God even used the Philistines to draw Saul away (23:26-27).

This is a powerful reminder when we feel betrayed by people to whom we have shown favor, because we bring them kindness also by the command of our Lord, who is very much involved. Moreover, we ourselves have also betrayed the Lord when we go on sinning deliberately (Heb 10:26), having known that he was crucified for our sins. Therefore, let us not grow weary in doing good (Gal 6:9; 2 Thess 3:13), especially during this extraordinary time.

Prayer: Lord, even when you have shown us such great love, we have been neglectful and repeatedly sin against you. Save us, O Lord! Amen.

何牧師的靈修

2020年9月3日

撒母耳記上 23 篇 14 節：“大衛住在曠野的山寨裡，常在西弗曠野的山地。掃羅天天尋索大衛，神卻不將大衛交在他手裡。”

我們大多數人對這個故事都能夠感同身受。大衛聽說非利士人在打壓基伊拉人。在他做任何事情前，大衛向耶和華求問，神要他拯救基伊拉。但是大衛的隨從提醒他，他本身也正在因掃羅逃難。如果他招惹非利士人，他可能會背腹受敵。大衛再次求問耶和華，耶和華向他保證事成。的確，大衛能夠拯救基伊拉人。果然，掃羅得知大衛的下落，就馬上追趕。當大衛知道這事，他問神基伊拉人會否把他交在掃羅手裡。答案是肯定的。大衛再次逃亡，但神沒有將他交給掃羅(撒母耳記上 23:1-14)。

我們大多數人肯定有過像大衛這樣的經歷，就是當我們忘我的幫助人，結果那人竟然忘恩負義。那人不僅沒有回報，而且我們還被徹底背叛。這常常使我們感到遺憾，而我們不得不要怪自己太天真。但是經文的 14 節下半節把我們往完全不同的方向轉：“掃羅天天尋索大衛，神卻不將大衛交在他手裡。”我們馬上被提醒，這不僅是掃羅和大衛之間的橫向關係，而一如既往，有至高神介入。因為是神告訴大衛拯救基伊拉，所以神也負責使大衛不落在掃羅的手裡。當掃羅逼近大衛時，神甚至利用非利士人把掃羅引開 (23:26-27)。

當我們覺得我們被我們所青睞的人出賣時，這是強而有力的提醒，因為我們也是奉主的命令給他們帶來恩慈。主肯定多方介入的。況且，我們自己也背叛了主，就是當我們雖然知道祂為我們的罪被釘十字架卻又故意犯罪 (希伯來書 10:26)。因此，我們行善，不可喪志 (加拉太書 6:9; 帖撒羅尼迦後書 3:13)，特別是在這個特別時期裡。

禱告：主啊，即使你已向我們展示那麼偉大的愛，我們還是忽略了你，並一再得罪你。主啊，請拯救我們！阿們。

何牧师的灵修

2020年9月3日

撒母耳记上 23 篇 14 节：“大卫住在旷野的山寨里，常在西弗旷野的山地。扫罗天天寻索大卫，神却不将大卫交在他手里。”

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我们大多数人肯定有过像大卫这样的经历，就是当我们忘我的帮助人，结果那人竟然忘恩负义。那人不仅没有回报，而且我们还被彻底背叛。这常常使我们感到遗憾，而我们不得不要怪自己太天真。但是经文的 14 节下半节把我们往完全不同的方向转：“扫罗天天寻索大卫，神却不将大卫交在他手里。”我们马上被提醒，这不仅是扫罗和大卫之间的横向关系，而一如既往，有至高神介入。因为是神告诉大卫拯救基伊拉，所以神也负责使大卫不落在扫罗的手里。当扫罗逼近大卫时，神甚至利用非利士人把扫罗引开(23:26-27)。

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