

Are You Patient?

How patient are you?

We live in an “instant” world. Advances in technology have caused us to expect things to happen instantly. We are not very good at waiting for things; we are not very patient people. Even when we know God’s will about something, we have a hard time waiting for God to do what He has said He will do.

David knew he was going to be the king of Israel, but Saul stood in the way. Saul worked hard trying to track down and kill David, but as we learned in last week’s lesson, David refused to harm Saul. Will David continue to trust God to deal with Saul, or will he take matters into his own hands? You will find the answer in 1 Samuel 26 and 31.

- 1 Sam. 26:5 Saul once again went out to search for David, but David heard about it and found Saul’s camp. Saul lay sleeping, surrounded by his soldiers.
- 1 Sam. 26:6 What did David ask his men?
- 1 Sam. 26:7 David and Abishai crept into Saul’s camp at night. Where did they find Saul?
- 1 Sam. 26:8 What did Abishai ask David?
- 1 Sam. 26:9 Why did David refuse to let Abishai kill Saul?
- 1 Sam. 26:10 David said that one of three things would happen to Saul. What were they?
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____

David faithfully trusted God to deal with Saul in His own way and in His own time. Do you trust God to deal with your problems?

- 1 Sam. 26:11-12 What did David and Abishai take from Saul’s camp?

Why were they able to get in and out of the camp undetected?
- 1 Sam. 26:13-14 David went to a nearby hilltop and called out to Abner, Saul’s military commander.
- 1 Sam. 26:15-16 Why did David say Abner was “*worthy to die?*”

What did David say to prove he had been in Saul’s camp?

1 Sam. 26:17-18 Saul recognized David's voice; David assured him that he meant him no harm.

King Saul was temporarily sorry for his actions against David, but soon changed his mind. David continued to hide from Saul.

1 Sam. 31:1 The Philistines again fought against Israel. How did the battle go?

1 Sam. 31:2 What happened to Saul's sons?

1 Sam. 31:3 What happened to Saul?

1 Sam. 31:4 Saul was mortally wounded, but he did not want to fall into the hands of the Philistines. Victorious armies often tortured and abused their wounded enemies. What did Saul tell his armor-bearer to do?

What did Saul do when the armor-bearer refused?

1 Sam. 31:5 What did the armor-bearer do?

1 Sam. 31:6 "So _____ died, and his three _____, and his _____, and all his _____, that same day together"

1 Sam. 31:7 What did the rest of the Israelite army do when they realized Saul and his sons were dead?

1 Sam. 31:8-10 What did the Philistines do with Saul's body?

Putting Saul's armor in their pagan temple meant they thought their god was stronger than Israel's God. Hanging his headless body on a city wall was a sign of contempt and disrespect.

1 Sam. 31:11-13 What did the men of **Jabesh-gilead** do?

Concluding Thoughts: David refused to take God's work into his own hands. In God's perfect time and in His way, He eliminated Saul so David could become king of Israel. David knew God could be trusted to fulfill His plan; he even wrote that in one of his Psalms: "*Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass. And He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him*" (Psalm 37:5-7).

We can learn from David's example and from the words of scripture that we should be patient people. God does not operate on our timetable, and we must learn to faithfully and patiently wait for Him to do His will in His way and in His time. Ask the Lord to help you do that.

Project: When you feel yourself growing impatient this week, ask God to help you trust Him more. Be sure to pick up a **Sunday School Member Quarterly** for the new quarter, so you can begin

the Daily Bible Readings on Monday. Come to Sunday School every Sunday. God will bless you by helping you understand His Word. The story of David continues next week.