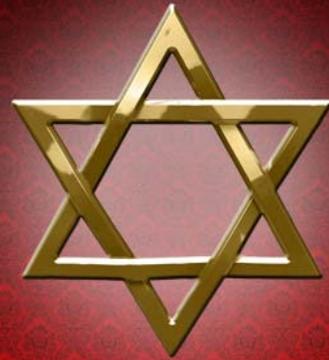


Contrasts of Circumstance Conscience and Control

Lessons:
From the Life of King David Pt. 5



The Contrast of Two Men

1 Samuel 24

Saul – The King
Anointed but Rejected God's Ways
Walking in the flesh

David - The Fugitive
Anointed but Running for His Life
Walking in the Spirit

The Back Story

“Now it happened afterward that David’s heart troubled him because he had cut Saul’s robe..”

1 Samuel 24:5

Saul - Anointed as King – Rejected God’s Ways
Rejected by God as King



David - Anointed as King
Man After God's Own Heart



1 Samuel 17 – Gained National Acclaim



Saul's jealousy and anger



**Tried repeatedly to
kill David or have him killed**

1 Samuel 18

...The Contrast : From Faith to Fear



In Faith to Samuel

In Fear to Nob & Gath

...Inquires of the Lord



The Prophet – Gad

The Priest – Abiathar

Deliverance from Saul

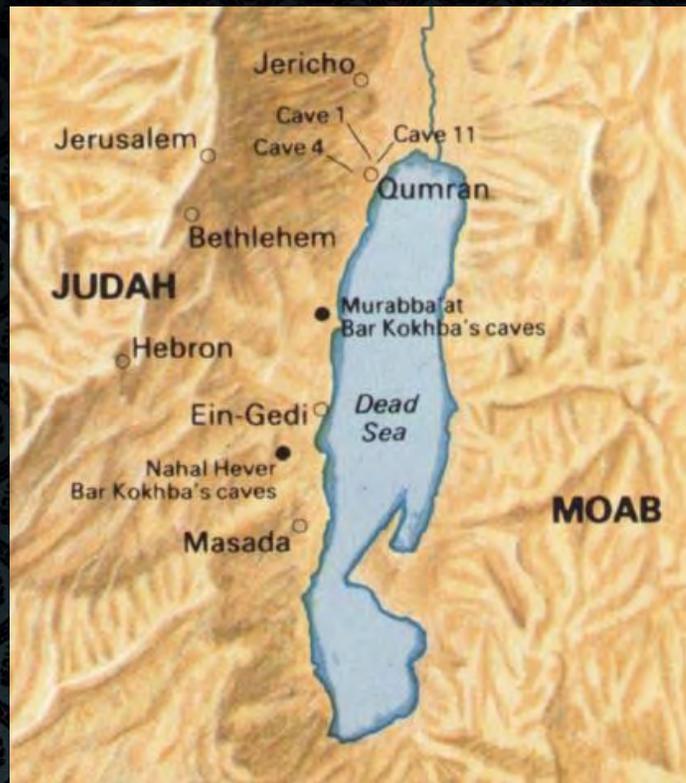
1 Samuel 23



In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1:6-7

...David flees to Wilderness of Ein-Gedi

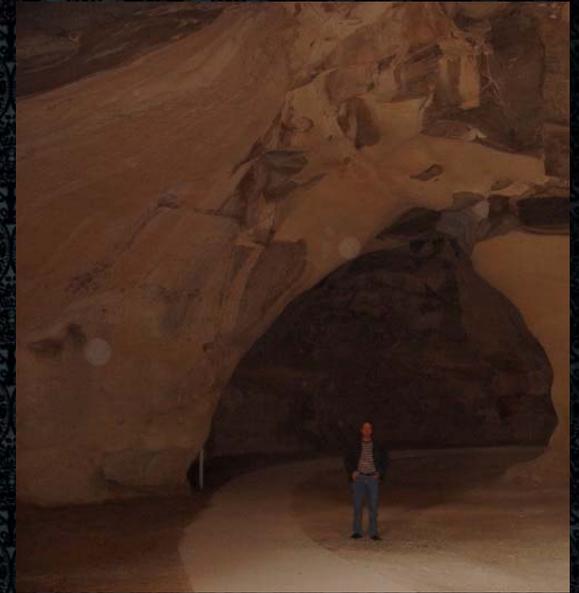


1 Samuel 24

Refuge in a Cave



Caves at Ein-Gedi



Caves at Ein-Gedi

An open scroll of ancient parchment with Hebrew text, flanked by two rolled-up scrolls, and a decorative metal bracelet in the foreground. The bracelet is dark with a repeating circular pattern. The background is a dark, patterned border.

The Psalms of King David

Psalm 54

David's Psalm 54:1-2



To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Contemplation of David when the Ziphites went and said to Saul, "Is David not hiding with us?"

*Save me, O God, by Your name,
And vindicate me by Your strength.*

*Hear my prayer, O God;
Give ear to the words of my mouth.*

David's Psalm 54:3-5



*For strangers have risen up against me,
And oppressors have sought after my life;
They have not set God before them. Selah*

*Behold, God is my helper;
The Lord is with those who uphold my life.*

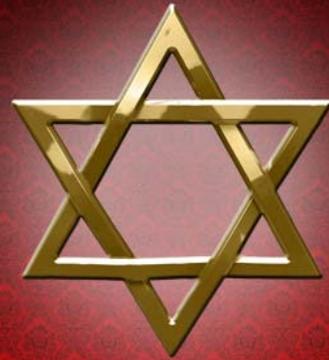
*He will repay my enemies for their evil.
Cut them off in Your truth.*

David's Psalm 54:6-7



*I will freely sacrifice to You;
I will praise Your name, O Lord, for it is good.*

*For He has delivered me out of all trouble;
And my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies.*

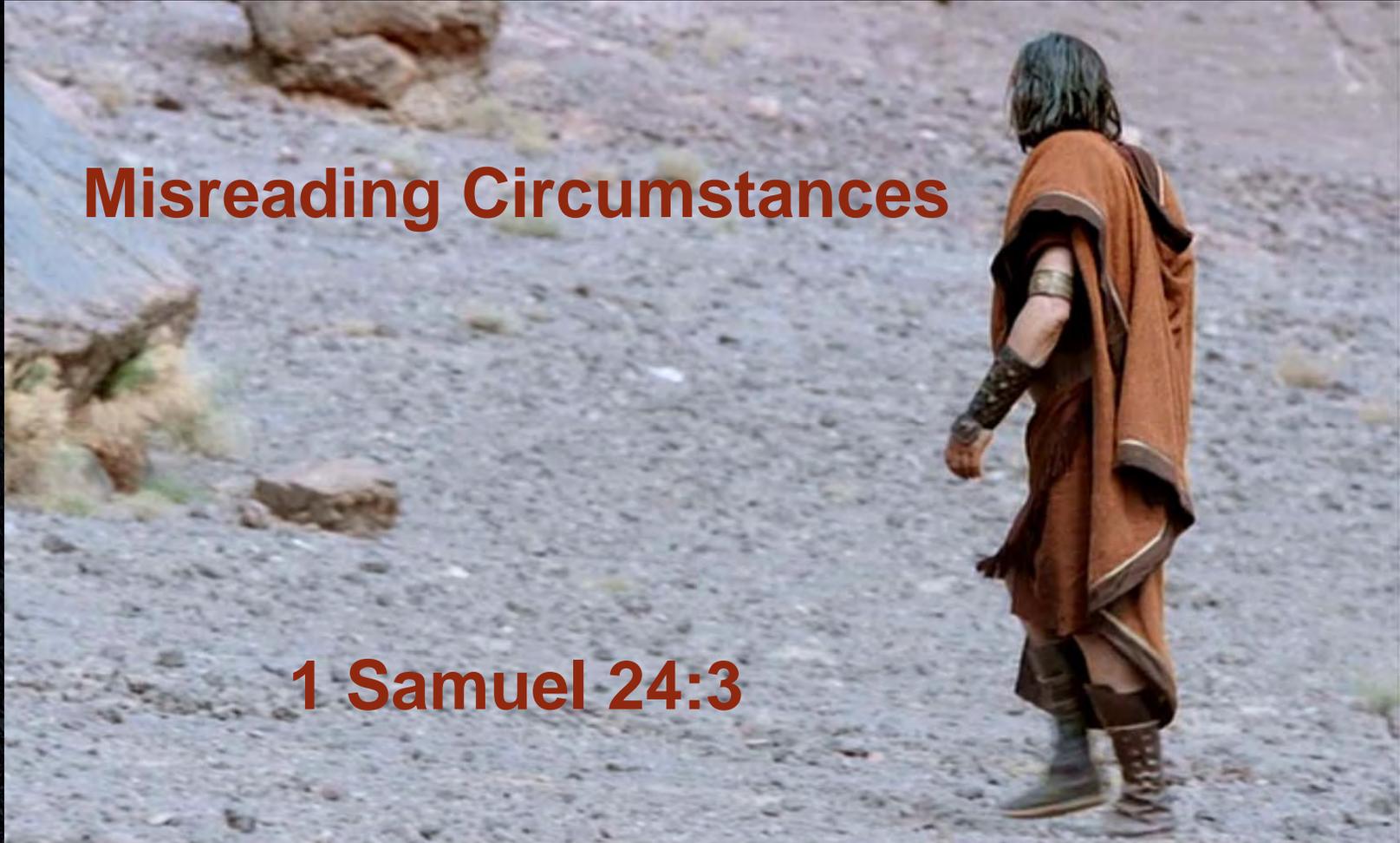


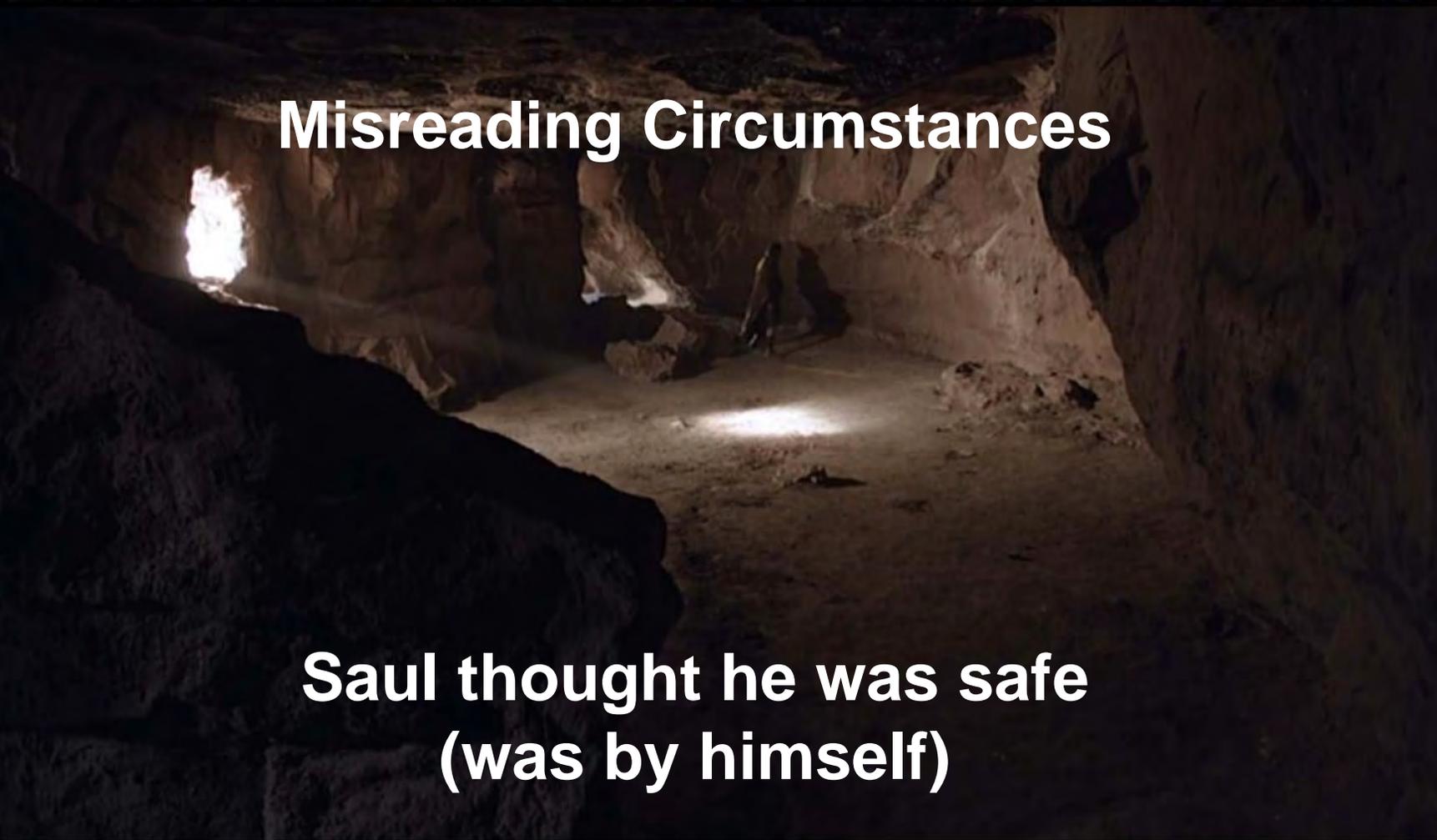
Contrasts of Understanding Circumstance

1 Samuel 24

Misreading Circumstances

1 Samuel 24:3



A photograph of a dark, cavernous interior, possibly a cave or a hidden passage. The walls are rough and textured. A bright light source is visible on the left, illuminating the scene. A person is visible in the distance, sitting on the floor. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and dimly lit.

Misreading Circumstances

**Saul thought he was safe
(was by himself)**

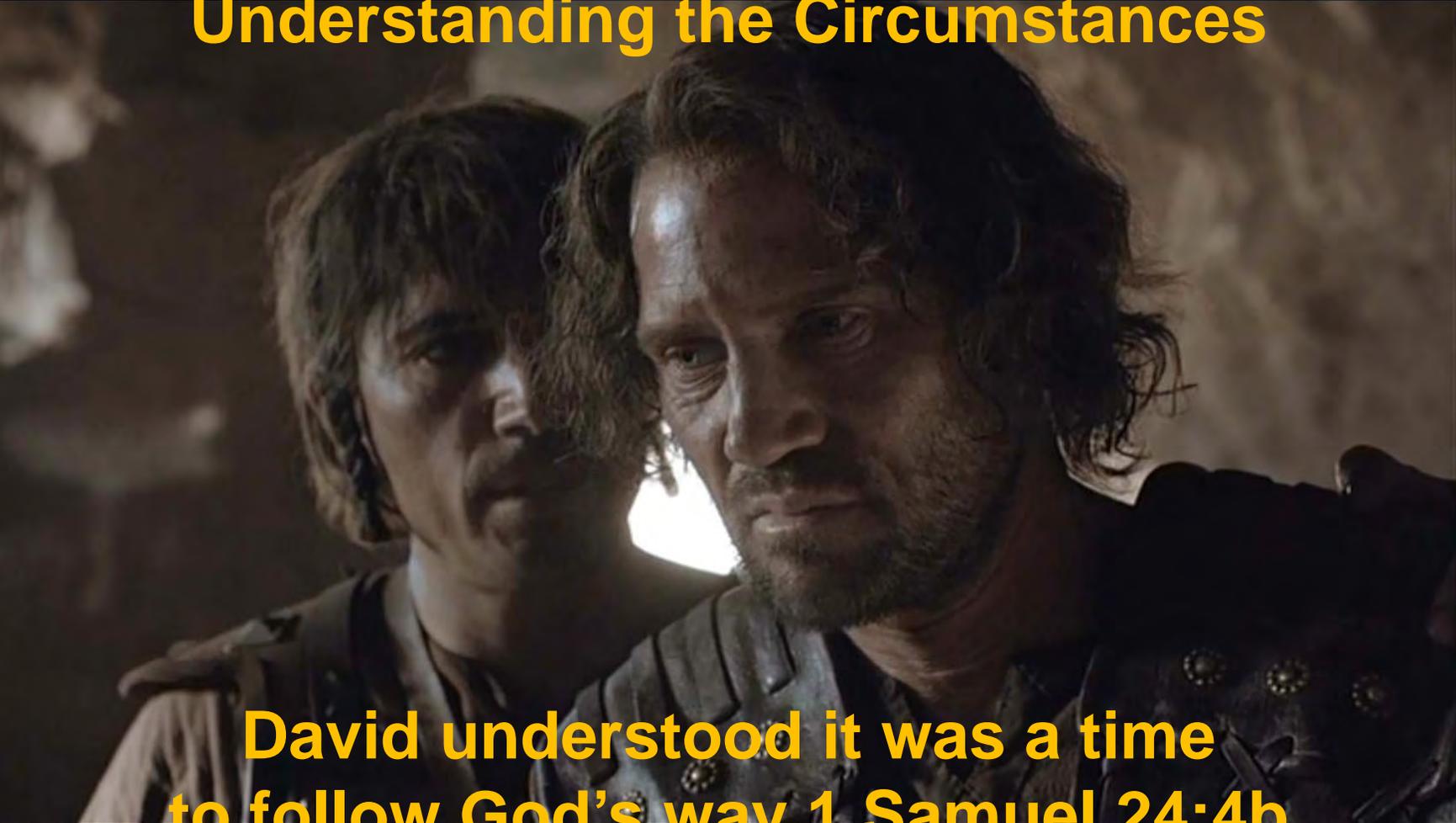
Misreading Circumstances

David's Men

Thought a time to revenge the evil done to them
1 Samuel 24:4a



Understanding the Circumstances



David understood it was a time
to follow God's way 1 Samuel 24:4b

Knew Principles of Loving His Enemies



If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.

Exodus 23:4-5

Knew Principles of Loving His Enemies



*If I have rejoiced at the destruction of him who hated me,
Or lifted myself up when evil found him*

*(Indeed I have not allowed my mouth to sin
By asking for a curse on his soul);
Job 31:29-30*

Knew Principles of Loving His Enemies



*Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,
And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles
Proverbs 24:17*

Knew Principles of Loving His Enemies



love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you...

Matthew 5:44



Contrasts of a Working Conscience

1 Samuel 24



Hardened Conscience

Saul pursued David when David was not a threat

Smitten Conscience

When cut off edge of Saul's robe
1 Samuel 24:5-6



Smitten Conscience



You shall not murder.

Exodus 20:13

***Military battle – not murder but war
Personal defense of defending another
Assassination of King = Murder***

Smitten Conscience



Lord's Anointed – Person of Authority

*You shall not revile God,
nor curse a ruler of your people.*

Exodus 22:28

David's Smitten Conscience

1 Samuel 24:5



Burdened by wrong immediately

Spoke of the sin to others – public activity

Encouraged them not to follow the wrong course of action

Saul's Hardened Conscience 1 Samuel 24:16-21

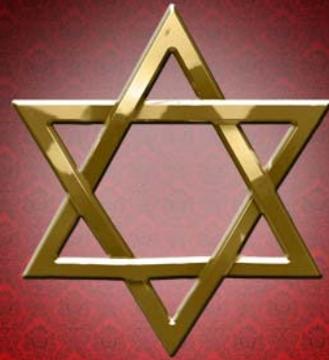
Concerned only after exposed

Not acknowledge sin only David a better man than him

Realizes too late the truth

Does not change his ways





Contrasts of Personal Control

1 Samuel 24

David's Control

1 Samuel 24:7-15



Restrained his men by his words of influence – knew the offence was against him not the men

Gave honor to the King in addressing him properly

Romans 13:1-7

1 Peter 2:13-17

2 Peter 2:9-11

David's Control

1 Samuel 24:7-15



He spoke of the great offence done to him, but did not put himself above God's appointed superior, the king and did not trash talk him.

He recognized others encouraged Saul to his pursuits.

David's Control

1 Samuel 24:7-15



He spoke of the fact that the Lord would judge between them and provide deliverance.

Saul's Control

1 Samuel 24:7-15



Acknowledges David will be King

Asks for protection of family name

Leaves the scene and will pursue David again and again.





Faith is living life walking with God
So walk with God so...

Lessons



1. Circumstances will be assessed properly

Shortsightedness — Saul — all he could see

Selfishness — Men of David — end of problems

Spiritual Principles — David — follow ways of God

Lessons



2. Conscience will be pliable

Hardened — Saul — not follow Word of God

Dulled — Men of David — Situation determines action

Easily troubled when go against Word of God - David

Lessons



2. Conscience will be pliable

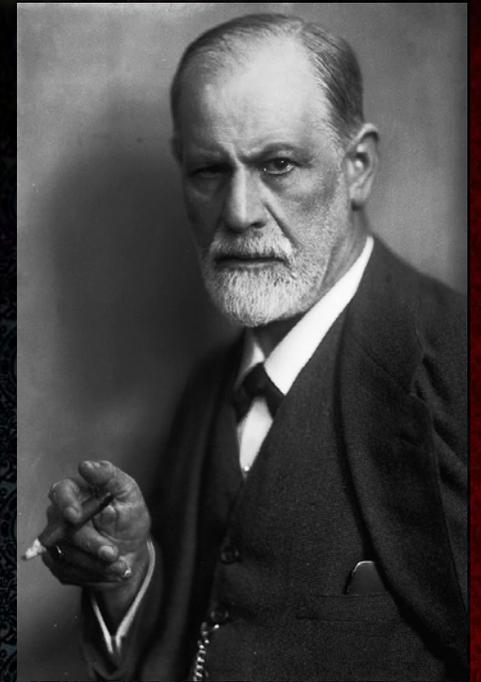
Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron... 1 Timothy 4:1-2

Lessons

2. Conscience needs to be pliable

Conscience is the problem.

Provide new standards and change conscience so it does not produce guilt and bad feelings.



Lessons



2. Conscience needs to be pliable

*having their own conscience
seared with a hot iron...*

1 Timothy 4:1-2



Lessons



3. Conduct needs to be directed by the Word of God

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way,
Who walk in the law of the Lord!”

Psalm 119:1

Lessons



3. Conduct will be directed by the Word of God

“With my whole heart I have sought You;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
Your word I have hidden in my heart,
That I might not sin against You.”

Psalm 119:10-11

Lessons



3. Conduct will be directed by the Word of God

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...

Colossians 3:16

Lessons



1. Circumstances

2. Conscience

3. Conduct

Choice:

Controlled by Self

Or

Lessons



1. Circumstances

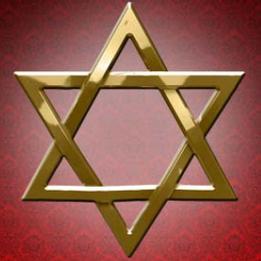
2. Conscience

Controlled by the

Grace of God

3. Conduct

Guided by the Word of God



Contrasts of Circumstance Conscience and Control

The Difference comes from Walking with God