

**Week 3. My father, my father**  
(from chapter 4&5 of “The Bait of Satan”).

**Step 1. Pause in Yahweh’s presence together.**

Listen to a worship song and or meditate on the Psalm below.

*Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. Psalm 86:11*

**Step 2. Reflect on a scripture**

Have you experienced rejection from a leader in your life? If so, how would you describe your relationship with them, both before and after? (Allow a few people to share their stories).

**Read. David spares Saul’s life...twice.**

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the Desert of En Gedi.”<sup>2</sup> So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats.<sup>3</sup> He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave.<sup>4</sup> The men said, “This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.<sup>5</sup> Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.<sup>6</sup> He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.”<sup>7</sup> With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?”<sup>2</sup> So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand select Israelite troops, to search there for David.<sup>3</sup> Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul had followed him there,<sup>4</sup> he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived.<sup>5</sup> Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him.<sup>6</sup> David then asked Ahimelek the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab’s brother, “Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?” “I’ll go with you,” said Abishai.<sup>7</sup> So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.<sup>8</sup> Abishai said to David, “Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won’t strike him twice.”<sup>9</sup> But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed and be guiltless?<sup>10</sup> As surely as the Lord lives,” he said, “the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.”<sup>11</sup> But

the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go." 1 Samuel 26:1-11

**Q.** Because David feared the Lord, he left vengeance in God's hands. Think back. What was your response the last time someone in authority (a government official, Christian leader, or supervisor) had their sin exposed or experienced calamity? What should be our response?

(Consider Obadiah 1:12-15.)

*Honour all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.* —1 Peter 2:17

According to Scripture, *all* authority is established by God. "For promotion and power come from nowhere on earth, but only from God. He promotes one and deposes another" (Psalm 75:7). Yet, while all authority is from God, not all authority is godly.

Many times we have to see beyond the person's *behaviour* and honour their God-given position. Carefully read Romans 13:1-7.

**Q.** What insights about leadership is God showing you in this passage?

### **Step 3. Ask.**

*Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

1 Thessalonians 5:12

**Q.** From the beginning to the end of our lives, we will always have people in authority over us. Trusting those in authority, especially when we disagree with them, is an act of faith in trusting that God has a plan which is bigger than we can see.

**Q.** Is there an area of your life in relation to a leader, where you haven't trusted God, and have taken matters into your own hands?

**Q.** If you are a leader, is there a place where you have treated a 'David' unjustly?

Whether you are a leader or a follower, ask the Father to help you to trust like David did, that God is still good and has a plan even if you can't see it.

### **Step 4. Yield.**

All of us will have opportunities to be offended with and expose leaders who've hurt us and made mistakes. God allows this test—to see if we'll take matters into our own hands, or trust Him to bring vengeance.

Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit if there are any thoughts, words, attitudes and behaviours he is asking you to repent of.

Finish by spending some time praying for leaders the Holy Spirit puts on your heart.