

Serve God's Purpose

Part 6

**“For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation.” (Acts 13:36a NIV)
“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God.” (Acts 13:36a KJV)**

Persevere and continue to fulfil God’s purpose in this life for that is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. We are waiting for the Lord to come to take us with him to heaven, but until he will come we need to persevere in fulfilling God’s purpose in our lives. Let us learn more of that from the life of David.

6- David was wise in the way he dealt with the outsider: David had to flee from Saul because he wanted to kill him, and he went to Achish king of Gath. There he acted wisely to protect himself as we can read here: ⁴⁰*That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath.* ⁴¹*But the servants of Achish said to him, “Isn’t this David, the king of the land? Isn’t he the one they sing about in their dances: “‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands?’”* ⁴²*David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath.* ⁴³*So he pretended to be insane in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.* ⁴⁴*Achish said to his servants, “Look at the man! He is insane! Why bring him to me? ⁴⁵Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here to carry on like this in front of me? Must this man come into my house?”* (1Samuel 21:10-15) David pretended to be mad so no one would put an eye on him and discover the mission work that he is doing for God. Moreover, David continue to do his mission work for God in reaching different areas and doing what God is telling him to do while the eyes of the enemy where close, ⁴⁶*Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.)* ⁴⁷*Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish.* ⁴⁸*When Achish asked, “Where did you go raiding today?” David would say, “Against the Negev of Judah” or “Against the Negev of Jerahmeel” or “Against the Negev of the Kenites.”* ⁴⁹*He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, “They might inform on us and say, ‘This is what David did.’” And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory.”* (1Samuel 27:8-11)

Jesus said, **“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”** (Matthew 10¹⁶) In serving the Lord you need to be very wise. You don’t need to speak up everything you want to do to the non-believers. Plan with your mind and keep control over your mouth. Boasting and showing off will only expose you to dangers and threats. The work of God would be opposed by Satan who will use people to be against you. therefore you need to be wise as God’s word teaching us, ⁴⁵**Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.** ⁶**Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”** (Colossians 4:5-6)

7- David used to inquire of the Lord: In many occasions before he did any action David inquired of the Lord to direct him in what he needs to do. The priest Ahimelech spoke about David to king Saul the following: **“Was that day the first time I inquired of God for him?”** (1Samuel 22:15a) So David was asking the help of the priest to inquire of the Lord for his behalf. David himself inquired of the Lord in many other occasions for different purpose and God answered him and he reaped the benefits of that privilege as we can read:

A- ²he inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go and attack these Philistines?” The LORD answered him, “Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah.” “Once again David inquired of the LORD, and

the LORD answered him, “Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand.” (1Samuel 23:2,4)

B- “David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, ²and had taken captive the women and all who were in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way. ³When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. ⁴So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. ⁵David’s two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God. ⁷Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, “Bring me the ephod.” Abiathar brought it to him, and David inquired of the LORD, “Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?” “Pursue them,” he answered. “You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue.” (1Samuel 30:1-8) Truly David listened and obeyed God and retrieved all what the enemy had taken from him (Read 1Samuel 30:9-20).

C- “In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. “Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?” he asked. The LORD said, “Go up.” David asked, “Where shall I go?” “To Hebron,” the LORD answered.” (2Samuel 2:1) He inquired of the Lord where he should live and dwell.

D- ⁴⁷When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. ⁴⁸Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; ⁴⁹so David inquired of the LORD, “Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” The LORD answered him, “Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you.” ²⁰So David went to Baal Perazim, and there he defeated them. He said, “As waters break out, the LORD has broken out against my enemies before me.” So that place was called Baal Perazim. ²¹The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them off. ²²Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; ²³so David inquired of the LORD, and he answered, “Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. ²⁴As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army.” ²⁵So David did as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.” (2Samuel 5:17-25) As David inquired of God, the Lord confirmed to him and taught him what to do.

My Dear and Beloved: Reflect in what you read for God will give you more insight in all of that to serve God’s purpose as you agree to pray:

My Prayer: *“Father God I come before you in Jesus name who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for what I learn from your word. Lord I commit myself to apply that in my life; to be wise with the outsiders in carrying your mission work, and to inquire of you in all the things that comes across my life and for all that I am about to do. Lord uphold me with your grace and answer me when I call, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*