

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 20TH-21ST, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

ANOINTED (1 SAMUEL 24:1-7) TRUSTING IN GOD'S TIMING

Chapter 24 records the first of two opportunities David had to kill Saul. Though it seemed like a perfect time to end his adversity, David cared more about honoring God and doing His will.

- **We're not to respond like the culture of the world. We're to be faithful and let God vindicate us.**

AFTER THE PHILISTINE THREAT...

After Saul had dealt with the Philistines, he enlisted 3000 soldiers to join him in pursuing David. As they were traveling near En-gedi, Saul stopped at a cave to "relieve himself."

- Amazingly enough, David and his men were hiding out in the cave and saw Saul come in to get "relief."

DAVID'S MEN SOUNDED LIKE THE VENGEFUL WORLD

David's men encouraged him to kill Saul. They also used an irrelevant prophecy as an excuse to act outside of God's will.

- **We can easily give in to peer pressure and even manipulate Scripture in times of stress. But, we must pray for wisdom and correctly lean on the Bible.**

JUST LETTING YOU KNOW I WAS THERE

While Saul was taking care of business, David crept up and cut off the corner of Saul's royal robe.

- This seemed like a perfect step to humble Saul and show who truly held the power, but "David's conscience bothered him" after he did it. Why?

NOT TOUCHING GOD'S ANOINTED (SET ASIDE)

Saul's robe was symbolic of his kingship. Cutting it attacked his authority and also compromised the law of the tassels for God-ordained leadership. God had placed Saul in his position, and God would remove him.

- **We must learn to honor authority and trust that God has all things under control.**

CONFRONTATION (1 SAMUEL 24:8-15)

AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION

After David persuaded his men not to "rise up against Saul," he exited the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" After this, he knelt down and "paid homage."

- **As Christians, we must be advocates of respect and decency in order to illuminate the light and build bridges.**

LETTING DIVISIVE PEOPLE CREEP IN

After letting Saul know he could've attacked him, David asks, "Why do you listen to... people who say... 'David intends to harm you?'"

- We must be **cautious with whom we allow to speak into us**. We must also learn to be **level-headed and reliant on truth to diffuse divisive people**.

"LOOK AT THE CORNER OF YOUR ROBE"

Though David was advised to kill Saul, **he had a personal relationship with God that enabled him to make godly decisions**. He also **calmly proved his innocence**.

- **In Christ, we find wisdom and security. In this, we make good choices and don't allow ungodly things to offend or sidetrack us.**

"MAY THE LORD JUDGE..."

David has done everything he can to resolve the situation. At this point, he throws up his hands and states that God will have to be the judge and deliverer.

- **We're responsible to "plant and water," but our faith is to be placed in God's ability and wisdom to make things happen (1 Corinthians 3).**

RESOLUTION? (1 SAMUEL 24:16-22)

SAUL RESPONDS

The response of the jealous, evil king was actually sincerity from his brokenness. He confessed that David was "more righteous" and had "done what is good to me though I have done what is evil to you."

- Possibly in his brush with death he momentarily awakened to his sinful actions.

WE OFTEN DO THINGS LIKE THIS

Like Saul, many people live their lives however they please and only temporarily acknowledge their actions or God when things go wrong, or they're in some kind of danger.

- **Real Christians are humble and have an ongoing relationship with God in the easy and hard seasons of life.**

USING WISDOM IN THE DIRECTION WE TAKE

Saul went back to his home, but David went to the "strongholds" because he knew Saul's character was still unstable. David responded with **both gentleness and wisdom**.

- We're to seek God's will at all times. In this, we will **learn to be "wise as a serpent, but harmless as a dove"** (Matthew 10, KJV).

SO, IS IT ALL GOING TO BE OK?

As we will find out, Saul hasn't changed. As time passed, Saul forgot the intensity of his brush with death and slipped back into sin.

- **Apathy is a powerful enemy. For some, it is easy to lose sight of God in hard times. For most, it is easy to forget God in the easy times.**

SEEKING DIRECTION

- We live in one of the most distracting and confusing times in human history, and it is extremely difficult to know what to do.
- When we walk with God through prayer and His Word, we walk in wisdom and the ability to discern His voice and what direction we should take.

HOW WE VIEW OURSELVES

- How we view God will determine how we view ourselves. How we view ourselves will change how we view and treat others.
- When we submit to God's will and seek Him first, we **live in the security and confidence of His guidance, and this enables us to navigate life in a way that fulfills us and blesses others**.

HOW WE HANDLE CONFLICT

- A relationship with **Jesus enables us to handle offense and conflict with other people in a godly manner** (Matthew 18, James 1).
- Whether we war with adversity (hard times) or apathy (easy times), **we will be able to weather internal conflict through consistent prayer, the Word, and good community**.

HOW WE HANDLE EVIL PEOPLE

- Jesus calls us to be **"wise as serpents, but harmless as doves."** This means **we are to live in the balance of wisdom and gentleness**. This is only possible through a strong relationship with the Spirit (wisdom, knowledge, discernment) and knowing the truth of His Word.

SOME SIMPLE STEPS

- We must be **praying and learning the Word**.
- We need to be **specifically praying for the gifts of wisdom and discernment**.
- When there is offense from others, go through **Jesus' model for conflict resolution** (Matthew 18).
- Consciously **strive to live in the tension and balance of gentleness and wisdom**.