

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 21ST, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

## DAVID SHOWS RESTRAINT (1 SAMUEL 24:1-7)

### SAUL RETURNS TO HUNTING DAVID

It seemed like Saul was about to capture David and his men until **God intervened, drawing Saul and his men away to fight the Philistines** (23:26-29).

- Saul returns from pursuing the Philistines and receives word that David and his men are in the wilderness near En-gedi, so **he takes 3,000 men to look for David.**

### FIGHTING WITH ENDURANCE

David was given a **temporary victory** at the Rock of Separation, but only a short time later is being hunted again and forced to retreat into the wilderness to find refuge.

- God gives us victory over our enemies, but we fight a spiritual battle against a relentless and unyielding enemy. **We fight this battle, trusting that God has given us eternal victory.**

### GOD IS IN CONTROL OF "EVERYTHING"

David and his men were hiding in a massive cave big enough to shelter a flock of sheep now used to shelter 600 men. As Saul and his men walked by the cave entrance, the need for Saul to **"relieve himself"** arose.

- **God is in control of even the most basic human needs, perfectly timing this bathroom break.**

### DAVID'S MEN MISUNDERSTOOD GOD'S PLAN

God arranged this in a way that would put Saul in the cave alone with David and 600 men. **God would use this to test and train David, giving him the chance to display a godly heart.**

- At some point, not recorded in Scripture, God promised to hand his enemy over to him, and **David's men thought this was an opportunity given by God to kill Saul.**

### DAVID SPARED SAUL

David did not take the opportunity to catch Saul with his pants down and kill him. Instead, **he secretly cut off a piece of Saul's robe.**

- David spared Saul because it was God who placed Saul into a position of authority and promised David he would "inherit the throne." So, **it was God's plan to fulfill, and David was unwilling to take it into his own hands.**

### GOD'S WILL IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH OBEDIENCE

If God promised to hand David's enemies over to him and promised him the throne, would he not have been justified in killing Saul?

- This is the same temptation we see Satan use against Jesus in Luke 4:5-8. God promised the Son power and authority, but **Satan offered a path to obtain power and authority without the pain and sacrifice of the cross.**

### ADDRESSING THE HURT

**David could resist the temptation to kill Saul because he had taken all his hurt and bitterness to the Lord.** If he had not done so, he may not have been able to resist the urge to kill Saul.

- **Unforgiveness becomes a poison to our soul if we do not properly address it by taking it to the Lord.**

### DAVID'S CONVICTION

Instead of being upset that he did not take the opportunity to kill Saul, we see that **David is troubled by the fact he cut his robe.**

- The robe was a symbol of Saul's authority, an authority given by God. By cutting Saul's robe, **David knew that his attack was not against Saul but an attack against the authority of God.**

### TRUSTING GOD

David humbly and honestly led his men. He communicated his convictions and his trust that God placed Saul in this position and would remove him in His timing.

- **The men responded to David's leadership by not rising up against Saul and allowing him to leave the cave and go on his way.**

## DAVID APPEALS TO SAUL (1 SAMUEL 24:8-15)

### COMPLETE TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

David showed his complete trust in God by calling out to Saul as he left the cave, only to then increase the risk as he bowed to show honor and respect to Saul.

- **David trusted that if he did what was right, then God would protect him despite the danger and fulfill His promises to him.**

### DON'T TOUCH THE LORD'S ANOINTED

David appealed to Saul, trying to get him to see that his mind was poisoned with the idea that he would want to harm the king and take the throne.

- He essentially said, "I had the chance to harm you, as others have urged me to do, but **I will not lift my hand to kill the Lord's anointed.**"

### MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISUSED

Verse 10 has been used to say that you should never speak against a pastor or leader because they are above criticism or correction or to prevent biblical evaluation of teaching.

- David refused to kill Saul, but did not refuse to confront him, hoping Saul would change his heart. **It is wrong to think this verse shields a leader from all evaluation or accountability.**

## SAUL REMEMBERS THE PROPHET SAMUEL

The piece of the robe held in David's hand showed that he could have killed him, but **it also symbolized God cutting away Saul's royal authority.**

- **It is possible that Saul remembered the words of the prophet Samuel** after he was rebuked for his hard-hearted disobedience.
- **1 Samuel 15:26-28**

## DAVID TELLS SAUL THAT HE IS NOT A THREAT

David used an old proverb, "**Wickedness comes from wicked people,**" to prove a point. If he were as wicked as Saul implied, he would have committed the wicked act of killing him in the cave, but since no wickedness came from David, then there is no evidence of wickedness in his heart towards Saul.

- **His plea seemed to touch the heart of Saul.**

## SAUL'S REACTION (1 SAMUEL 24:16-22)

### SAUL WEPT ALOUD

Saul confessed to David that **David's behavior** toward Saul (though Saul had tried to hunt him down and kill him) **was correct and righteous.**

- David's **obedience to God** and **genuine love** for Saul, shown through his **loyalty and faithfulness**, is what made the difference in softening Saul's heart.

### SAUL MAKES A REQUEST OF DAVID

Saul knew that David would be king, as Jonathan stated (23:17), but now he really knows it and confesses this to David.

- **Saul then requested the same oath that David had with Jonathan:** that David would not destroy Saul's descendants as is typically done to remove future claims to the throne.

## DAVID SHOWS THE HEART OF THE LORD

Saul does not deserve the mercy he receives from David, nor is he in a position to make a request for the preservation of his family.

- **David displayed the heart of God, showing the same measure of grace and mercy to Saul that we undeservedly receive from God.**

## "DAVID... WENT UP TO THE STRONGHOLD"

David knew Saul's temperament was unstable, so he wisely did not go with Saul to the palace.

- People often recognize their sinful ways and confess in the moment but do not have a true heart change. **A changed heart is not validated through emotion or sincerity in the moment but in an ongoing change of direction.**

## GOD IS SOVEREIGN

- Saul was a corrupt and troubled leader, but **he was given his position by God.** (1 Samuel 10; Daniel 2:21; Romans 13:1)
- Though we do not attack God's sovereignty by cutting robes, **we cut men down who are placed in authority by God with our critical words, thereby cutting down God and his sovereignty.**

## COVERED IN THE DUST OF YOUR RABBI

- David mimicked the heart of the Lord because he followed him so closely. **Whatever we are following after, we will start to look like that thing or person.**
- **If we are following Christ, we should start to look more like him (Luke 6:40). We cannot claim to be a Christian if we are not following the teachings of Christ (Matthew 10:24-25).**