

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 24:1-22

"Overcoming evil...with good" – October 8th, 2017



Introduction

Waiting in traffic, waiting in line, waiting in the doctor's office...waiting is never fun. We prefer to be out of the waiting room and getting to where we want to go. In His promises to His people, God has much in store. He promises us joy, promises us peace, promises us a time when there will be no more weeping, sorrow, pain or death ([Revelation 21:1-4](#)). But often, the posture of the Christian life is one of waiting. Why? Why does God leave us to wait for what He promises? In 1 Samuel 24, David has an opportunity for an unbiblical shortcut – one that in the end, he refuses. As we see what David was learning, may we too learn to trust our good and wise God...even in the waiting room.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

At times, God has us wait for what He promises...

- I. That we might learn to show mercy (24:1-7)
- II. That we might learn to uphold justice, God's way (24:8-22)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 24:1-7](#)

Saul is once again on the hunt for David, but when Saul takes a pit stop, he unknowingly puts himself in David's crosshairs. Though David has the chance to kill Saul (and is encouraged by his men [v4]), he refuses. Instead he cuts off the corner of Saul's robe; but even that is enough to leave David with a crisis of conscience. The reason is that the robe of the king had come to represent the kingdom itself (see [1 Samuel 15:28](#), [18:4](#)). As a result, David knew his actions were a power grab – a shortcut to take the kingdom for himself and bypass the pain of being on the run. As God's anointed, Saul may be wicked, but he still represents God by holding the office. To lay a hand on the one God had set apart by his anointing, is to lay a hand on God Himself.

Not every 'open door' should be understood as 'God's will.' Why not? How are we to examine opportunities to assess if they are His will? What are ways you're tempted to take an unbiblical shortcut? Where are you tired of waiting? Where are you tempted to twist God's word to put an end to waiting?

Additional reading: Romans 2:14-15; 1 Timothy 1:18-19; Psalm 37:34

*A good book to better understand the conscience, is the book [Conscience: What it is, how to train it, and loving those who differ](#), by Andy Naselli and J.D. Crowley (On sale at the Bookstall!)

2) Read [1 Samuel 24:8-22](#)

David is able to show mercy to Saul, because he trusts God as Judge. The truth that *he* will give an account to God for *his* actions guides his moral compass and allows him to trust God with vengeance. How do horrific events (e.g. the holocaust or mass shootings as we saw in Las Vegas last week) point to the existence of a moral Law-giver and Judge? Instead of retaliating in the same way that Saul is hunting him, David shows mercy. What does it mean to be 'overcome by evil' as we read in Romans 12:21? How can we overcome evil with good? Why is it good news for us (and the world) that God is Judge?

Additional reading: Romans 12:9-21, Exodus 34:6-7

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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