

## 1 Samuel 24

King James Version (KJV)

**24** And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi. (Very rugged land area with many steep cliffs)

<sup>2</sup>Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. (Saul outnumbers David 5 to 1)

<sup>3</sup>And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. (cover his feet= get some sleep) (David got there first and was hiding deeper in the same cave)

<sup>4</sup>And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. (David cut off a piece of Saul's cloak while he was sleeping. He is showing Saul that he could have killed him if he wanted to. David didn't want to start his kingship by murder)

<sup>5</sup>And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. (He felt bad for humiliating Saul)

<sup>6</sup>And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD. (Probably the wiser course of action on David's part; respect the office, not the man)

<sup>7</sup>So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way. (David forbade his men to kill Saul)

<sup>8</sup>David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

<sup>9</sup>And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? (That's a good question; David means Saul no harm)

<sup>10</sup> Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD's anointed. (He could have easily killed Saul, if he wanted to)

<sup>11</sup> Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it. (my father = the word father was also used to address an advisor or a counselor)

<sup>12</sup> The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. (Let God judge them both. David will not kill Saul, but Saul is trying to murder David)

<sup>13</sup> As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. (Wicked men seek revenge; David proved that he had no ill intent towards Saul)

<sup>14</sup> After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea. (The king, trying to kill a private citizen who is no threat to him; Saul is pure evil for using the power of his office to do this)

<sup>15</sup> The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand. (David is asking God to judge Saul, as Saul hears him do it. Will God respond to David's request?)

<sup>16</sup> And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. (Saul might be coming back to his senses. Possibly, the evil spirit had left him)

<sup>17</sup> And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. (Saul sounds like he is finally realizing the reality of the situation)

<sup>18</sup> And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

<sup>19</sup> For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day. (Saul is asking God to reward David for his mercy)

<sup>20</sup> And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand. (Saul realizes that David will be the king, as he should be. David is the wiser of the two and God blesses David)

<sup>21</sup> Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house. (Swear to me that you won't go after my descendants after you become king. It was fairly common for a new king to kill the family of the old king)

<sup>22</sup> And David sware unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the hold. (David swore to Saul that there would be no vengeance upon his family, but he was not buying Saul's sudden change of heart. Saul had proven to be far from trustworthy. David wisely went back into hiding so Saul couldn't try to kill him again)