

## ROUND #1: THE CAVE 1 SAMUEL 1:22

Few of us will deal with blood feuds / life & death situations in the USA.

However, we can & do deal with:

Emotional pain	Financial loss	Vocational / job issues
Sexual violation	Social stigma	Marital failure

**1 Samuel 23:14** And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

**1 Samuel 24:1** 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. **1 Samuel 24:2** 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. **1 Samuel 24:3** 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.

We find Saul in pursuit again, using the army as his own personal hit squad until David gets his chance in a cave!!!

### I. David refusing to give in to vengeance.

**1 Samuel 24:3** 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. **1 Samuel 24:4** 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. **1 Samuel 24:5** And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, **because** he had cut off Saul's skirt. **1 Samuel 24:6** 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. **1 Samuel 24:7** 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.

Vengeance / the desire for vengeance requires:

- Wrong doing
- Serious wrong doing
- The desire for payback
- Planning / plotting for payback
- An opportunity for payback (your cave)
- A little encouragement from some "friends!"
- A little "Biblical" justification

**1 Samuel 24:4** 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.

We all know the texts:

**Deuteronomy 32:35** To me *belongeth* vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in *due* time: for the day of their calamity *is* at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

**Romans 12:17** Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. **Romans 12:18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. **Romans 12:19** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

**Hebrews 10:30** For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. **Hebrews 10:31** *It is* a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Of course, few of us will plot physical violence **but** what about...?

- Harboring hurts
- Holding grudges
- Telling grievance stories

- Hoping for bad to happen

How do we refuse to give into vengeance<sup>+</sup>?

- We know this is wrong / deeply wrong

- We also know it is wrong to include others

**1 Samuel 24:7** 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.

- We know the plotting, doing, allowing of wrong will do the most wrong to

- We know God will take care of all wrong (sooner or later / in eternity)

**1 Samuel 24:12** The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. **1 Samuel 24:15** The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

## II. David attempting to make up with Saul

**1 Samuel 24:8** 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. **1 Samuel 24:9** And David said to Saul, **Wherefore hearest thou men's words**, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? **1 Samuel 24:10** 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. **1 Samuel 24:11** 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. **1 Samuel 24:12** The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. **1 Samuel 24:13** As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. **1 Samuel 24:14** **After** whom is the king of Israel come out? **after** whom dost thou pursue? **after** a dead dog, **after** a flea. **1 Samuel 24:15** The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

## III. David agreeing to do right by Saul's family.

**1 Samuel 24:16** 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. **1 Samuel 24:17** And he said to David, Thou *art* more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. **1 Samuel 24:18** 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. **1 Samuel 24:19** 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. **1 Samuel 24:20** And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand. **1 Samuel 24:21** **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.** **1 Samuel 24:22** **And David swore unto Saul...**

24:20 → 23:17 Did Saul really know this? Accept this?

## IV. David starting to move on with life.

**1 Samuel 24:22** And David swore unto Saul. **And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the hold.** **1 Samuel 26:25** Then Saul said to David, Blessed *be* thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great *things*, and also shalt still prevail. **So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.**

**1 Samuel 15:34** Then Samuel went to Ramah; **and** Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

**1 Samuel 23:18** And they two made a covenant before the LORD: **and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.**