



DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

1 Samuel 24:1–15

RELATED SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 18:6–16 | Matthew 4:8–11 | Psalm 57

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 8.04.24

SUMMARY

The stark contrast between Saul and David becomes more pronounced as their story unfolds. David was filled with the Spirit, while the Spirit departed from Saul (1 Samuel 16), and their lives increasingly reflected this reality. Once David defeated Goliath, Saul's jealousy of David grew (1 Samuel 18:8–9) to the point that Saul sought—for many years—to kill David. As Saul pursued David, he received word that David was hiding in a nearby wilderness, so Saul assembled an army to capture and kill him. In his pursuit, Saul came across a cave and took a moment to relieve himself. Little did he know David and his loyal men were hiding in the very cave where Saul would place himself in this *extremely* vulnerable position. Believing this was a gift from the Lord, David's men encouraged him to take advantage of this extraordinary situation and kill the man who was vehemently committed to killing him. David did, in fact, rise to "stealthily" approach Saul; nevertheless, he didn't kill him. Instead, he cut a corner off Saul's robe—but even in doing this, David was remorseful (1 Samuel 24:5). David knew the robe symbolized Saul's authority as Israel's king. Though David was anointed as Israel's next king, he trusted the Lord's hands to bring about his kingship over his own. David knew that Saul remained on the throne not by accident but by God's sovereign design (1 Samuel 24:6). David confessed as much to Saul himself in the moments after he left the cave, and while this mercifully, selfless act momentarily softened the heart of Saul, it wouldn't be enough to change it—Saul would eventually continue to pursue David (1 Samuel 26:3). As the case of every Old Testament narrative, David's actions—as admirable as they are—are merely pointers to the true and better David, Jesus Christ. Satan offered Jesus "all the kingdoms of the world" (Matthew 4:9), which is Christ's rightful position, but doing this way would bypass the cross and our atonement, which Jesus refused to do. Instead, he endured the suffering to obtain the "joy that was set before him" (Hebrews 12:2).

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of 1 Samuel 24:1–15.

What can be said about Saul's confidence in himself and the events in the cave? How much control did Saul have? How can we apply this observation to our lives?

What makes David's decision in the cave different than what the world (and even many Christians) would advise him to do? Do you think David's reign would have been different had he taken Saul's life? How so?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.