

David, Shepherd and King
#9 David Spares Saul - 1 Samuel 24 (2/28/10 AM)

(1-2) Saul took 3,000 of his best soldiers and went after David. We have seen how God has been testing David preparing him for his role as king.

1. David's Test in the Cave (3-7)

The Hardest Test so Far

The sheepfolds were often stone walls built in front of caves. Saul went into the very cave where David and some of his men were hiding.

• **An illustration of God's _____**

Providence describes God's directing activity bringing everything to its divinely appointed goal or outcome. Providence is based upon the sovereignty of God meaning His unlimited power and control over everything, Psalm 103:19. God's providence had kept David from Saul. Now God's providence brought Saul to David. Beware of rushing to conclusions rather than waiting for God's purposes to be clearly revealed.

David's men immediately believed that God had delivered Saul to David so he could kill him.

This Was not an Opportunity for Vengeance but a Test of

• **An example of man's _____**

David would not kill Saul but he humiliated him. The king's robe was one of the symbols of his office.

David was convicted for defacing

Saul's robe. A person with a heart for God has a conscience sensitive

to sin. Paul is another example as seen in Acts 24:16. There is the principle here of honoring the position if not the person. God was

the One Who placed Saul in office and He would be the One to remove him.

It Was not David's _____ to Deal with Saul

2. David's Testimony to Saul (8-15)

How to Deal with an Adversary

• **Display humility and give _____**

David did not reflect Saul's attitude back to him. This is what Jesus commands His followers to do, Matthew 5:44. David showed humility

as he bowed before Saul. David was really humbling himself before the Lord. James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord..."

Never Return _____ for Evil

Romans 12:17-18, "Repay no one evil for evil..."

• **Speak the _____ in love**

David showed to Saul the practical evidence that he had no intention of killing him.

Always Return _____ for Evil

1 Peter 3:9, "...but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."

• **Do not seek personal _____**

David refused to take personal revenge upon Saul even though Saul had so wrongfully mistreated him. David understood that a man's actions reveal his character. David did not use the excuse of unfairness to justify harming Saul.

Counteract Evil by Doing Good In the _____ of Evil

Romans 12:19-21, "...Therefore 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

• _____ **the situation to the Lord**

Why would a king lead his army to capture someone as insignificant as David? David took his case and laid it before the Lord. Notice how he repeated this theme with the words “judge, plead and deliver”. Saul

stands as an example of the greatest type of folly.

Never Ever Return Evil for _____

Proverbs 17:13, “Whoever rewards evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.” Apply David’s situation to your own. Ask yourself the question “Who is the one who looks like the fool?”

3. Saul’s Response to David (16-22)

A Display of Insincerity

• **Emotional _____**

(16) “So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, ‘Is this your voice, my son David?’ And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.”

Saul realized how close to death he had just come. David’s words had an immediate impact upon him.

• **Remorseful _____**

(17-19) “Then he said to David: ‘You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil...’”

What Saul said was true but it had no lasting effect upon him. Saul had at different times shown these temporary outward remorseful responses.

• **Superficial _____**

(20-21) “And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. Therefore swear now to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s house.”

Knowing the truth and submitting to the truth are two different things. Saul acknowledged what was true but he refused to submit to it. If Saul was truly sorry he would have taken off his robe and given it to David.

He would have taken David back to Gibeah and declared that David was the rightful king. That is why David, after he “swore to Saul... went up to the stronghold” (22).

Saul Displayed no Evidence of _____