

David Spares the Lord's Anointed

1 Samuel 24:1-22

1. After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." 2. So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. 3. He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. 4. Then David crept up to Saul and quietly cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 5. Later David felt guilty because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 6. He said to his men, "May the Lord keep me from doing such a thing to my master! Saul is the Lord's appointed king. I should not do anything against him, because he is the Lord's appointed king. 7. David used these words to stop his men; he did not let them attack Saul. 8. When David came out of the cave, he shouted to Saul. "My master and king! Saul looked back, and David bowed facedown on the ground. 9. He said to Saul. "Why do you listen when people say, "David wants to harm you? 10. You have seen something with your own eyes today. The Lord put you in my power in the cave. They said I should kill you but I was merciful. I said I won't harm my master, because he is the Lord's appointed king. 11. My father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe, but I didn't kill you. Now understand and know I am not planning any evil against you. I did nothing wrong to you, but you are hunting me to kill me. 12. May the Lord judge between us, and may he punish you for the wrong you have done to me! But I am not against you. 13. There is an old saying: Evil things come from you. 14. Whom is the king of Israel coming out against. Whom are you chasing? Its as if you are chasing a dead dog or a flea. 15. May the Lord be our judge and decide between you and me. May he support me and show that I am right. May he save me from you.

16. When David finished these words, Saul asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?" And he cried loudly. 17. He said, "You are a better man than I am. You have been good to me, but I have done wrong to you. 18. You told me what good things you did. The Lord handed me over to you, but you did not kill me. 18. People don't normally let an enemy get away like this, do they? May the Lord reward you because you were good to me today. 20. I know you will surely be king, and you will rule the kingdom of Israel. 21. Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill my descendants and that you won't wipe out my name from my father's family. 22. So David made the promise to Saul. Then Saul went back home, and David and his men went up to their hideout.

Point 1: Touch Not the Lord's Anointed.

It was God's divine choice to anoint Saul as King. It was a holy calling, one that God approved of. This was not a human choice. Saul knew he was from the smallest tribe of Israel and the smallest clan. Anointing: When God puts his stamp on someone's life. God chose and called his children to lead. It was this calling that was most important, not Saul's family name or might. The people needed a leader who would lead them to God.

1 Samuel 9:15-16 *Now the day before Saul came, “the Lord had revealed to Samuel 16. Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people because their cry has come to me.*

1 Samuel 10:1 *Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, ‘Has not the Lord anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the Lord and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the Lord has anointed you to be prince over his heritage.*

- Anointing is related to strength or blessing.

1 Samuel 10:9 *When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day. 10. When they came to Gibeah, behold a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them.*

- Saul was being equipped with power to play a new role. In his very first battle God gave him victory.

1 Samuel 11:6 *The spirit of the Lord rushed upon Saul when he was told that Nahash the Ammonite was attacking the Israelites. His anger was greatly kindled. The dread of the Lord fell upon the people. God gave Saul victory and they struck down the Ammonites. All of Israel trusted In Saul.*

- The spirit of God and anointing came upon Saul from the beginning of his reign to help him lead. God protected him
- David, unlike Saul, recognized how important it was to have God’s holy anointing on one’s life. In David’s own life.
- David knew in his own life that it wasn’t his family name, his military wisdom that helped him. It was God with Him.
- When God departed from Saul because he chose to disobey God, David was chosen to play the harp when a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him, 1 Samuel 10:14
- The Lord being with David was a continual theme throughout His life. When he was a shepherd, when he killed Goliath and when He became a high ranking military leader in Israel.

1 Samuel 15:1 Saul refuses to kill Agag

1 Samuel 24:3-5 *Saul came to the sheep pens beside the road. A cave was there, and he went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were hiding far back in the cave. 4. The men said to David, “Today is the day the Lord spoke of when he said, “I will give your enemy over to you. Do anything you want with him”.*

1 Samuel 24:4 *David cut off the corner of Saul’s robe.*

1 Samuel 24:5-6 *Afterwards David was conscience stricken for having cut off the corner of his robe. 6. He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay a hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord. 7. With these words, David sharply rebukes his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.*

- David cannot bring himself to kill Saul
- He knew he would not be happy taking the role of king by force. He trusted God’s Divine timing and judgment, and did not act

Recently we have seen a lot of protests in the streets. People wanting to convey their grievances and express themselves for the rights they feel they need to fight for. It is a very heated debate in some countries politically. Sometimes when we feel that God is not moving fast enough or he will not judge righteously so we have to take matters in to our own hands. But what does this speak about God’s righteousness judgement when we try to make things happen rather than trusting Him?

- David lived by the principle that God’s will was higher than his own.
- He believed that no one can kill the Lord’s anointed and still be innocent. It would affect His character greatly if he sunk to Saul’s level and avenged himself.

Point 2: Confrontation

1 Samuel 24:8-12

When David came out of the cave, he shouted to Saul, “My master and king!” Saul looked back, and David bowed facedown on the ground. 9. He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when people say, ‘David wants to harm you? You have seen that you were in my power but I didn’t kill you. 10. This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, “I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord’s anointed. 12. See my father, look at this piece of robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but I did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrong doing or rebellion.

- David didn’t act out of impulse and kill Saul. He chose to confront Him
- David was being abused by Saul and was innocent. This is a matter that could not be swept under the carpet.
- God said do not touch the Lord’s anointed. But this does not give a leader the right to act without restraint

Why did David choose to confront him instead of holding vengeance in his heart, keeping quiet or murdering him?

- When it comes to confrontation, many believe its easier to push things under the carpet and not say anything when there is an issues that repeatedly arises.
- We may think that it will eventually go away.
- Story of Confrontation
- This was the situation that David found himself in. He was involved in a struggle between being abused by Saul and speaking the truth.

Point 3:

David was Loyal to King Saul but Resolved to Maintain Truth

- David knew his character would be greatly affected if he was not loyal to Saul
- By confronting Saul, David was saying
- David was Saul's highest military ranking leader. He was loved by many of Saul's men. By David taking the opportunity to overthrow the existing king it would have been an act of treason. David would begin his kingship in murder, rebellion and disobedience. The ramifications on Israel's history would have been great. God's name would have been defamed throughout the nations and the Rebellion would enter into the house of David.
- There were other kings in Israel's history who rose to power through manipulation and ruthless killing and David did not want to dishonor God in this way.
- Deep down did not want to rebel against Saul
- Even though David was tired and on the run, his men were pressuring Him, He did not want to be disloyal to his master the king, who he loved. He called him Father. David prostrated himself on the ground and was heartbroken over Saul's sin.
- Being loyal didn't mean that David would do whatever Saul wanted Him to do. He would speak the truth to Saul and stand on God's truth. He would allow God to be His comfort
- By remaining silent, David wasn't doing what he felt God wanted him to do.

1 Samuel 24:13 *As the old saying goes, From evil doers come evil deeds, so my hand will not touch you. 14. Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? 15. May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.*

- David was saying, I will find my strength and comfort in God judging between us. I will not sink to your level by avenging myself. God will judge and avenge me. I will not put my trust in you. I will not return with you. I will be comforted. God will heal me and God will avenge Me and I will move on.
- I won't let my anger and jealousy destroy my character. The nation of Israel would have been forever effected if David acted in his own timing to become king
- Your anger and jealousy has destroyed you.
- God would act on David's behalf

1 Samuel 24:16 *Saul cried out: Is that your vice, David my son? And he wept aloud. 17. You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. 18. You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord delivered me into your hands but you did not kill me. 19. When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. 20. I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. 21. Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father’s family. 22. So David gave this oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.*

- But that didn't mean David would go back and trust him after that. He didn't trust him. He only trusted God to avenge Him and take care of him and Saul left and David stayed where he was. And Saul didn't turn.
- His comfort is that. God will take care of him and trust him. But he's not going to compromise
- Loyalty doesn't mean that he will trust Saul.
- David always sought the will of God above his own agenda. God changed his heart and made him a great king.
- His agenda was not power, position, and kingship.
- David's greatest desire was to serve God.

Prayer Items 27/01/2021

1. Standing with God

- For the church to Stand with God in our character and loyalty to His call
- Obeying God in the midst of pressure and other powers
- Conviction that God is good and will protect us no matter what comes
- Trusting God's plan for our lives

2. Godly Relationships

- Becoming supportive friends to each other
- Becoming vulnerable and open/building trusting and open relationships
- Our friendships would produce growth
- Our discipleship relationships with others

3. Life Church

- A heart to read God's word
- We would invest our time in others
- Unsaved family members

4. Ministries

- Life Explorers
- Redeeming Roses
- Destiny Kids & Teens
- Sunday School
- Lifeline
- Worship

5. Those Who are Not Well

- Si Yun (colon cancer) & Jayden
- Suba's knee
- Rowena's aunty Ana (lung cancer)

6. Covid-19 Pandemic

- Children, Parents and Teachers
- Wisdom for Government
- Economy/those who are out of work

7. Malaysia

- Religious freedom, unity and Churches