

# **Bible Study March 20, 2024**

## **1 SAMUEL 24 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)**

**Song of Solomon 1:14-15 (ESV)**

***<sup>14</sup> My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of Engedi. <sup>15</sup> Behold, you are beautiful, my love; behold, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves.***

### **David Spares Saul's Life**

***<sup>1</sup> When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." <sup>2</sup> Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks.***

**1 Peter 4:12-13 (ESV)**

***<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.***

***<sup>3</sup> And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave.***

A sheepfold was a large enclosure with a wall or fence around it that was used to protect sheep from thieves and wild animals at night. Thorn branches were sometimes placed on top of walls that were high enough to prevent most wild animals from getting in. There was only one entrance to the enclosure, and the shepherd often slept in front of it.

David and his 600 men found the wilderness of En-gedi a good place to hide because of the many caves in the area. These caves were used by local people for housing and as tombs. For David's men they were places of refuge. These caves can still be seen today. Some are large enough to hold thousands of people.

***<sup>4</sup> And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe.***

When David's men saw Saul entering their cave, they wrongly assumed that this was an indication from God that they should act. Even friends who are on your side can give poor advice. Don't assume that they know what is best for you or that they know God's will for you. Always test advice from others against the truth God has shown you in his Word.

Romans 13:1-7 teaches that God has placed the government and its leaders in power. We may not know why, but like David, we are to respect the positions and roles of those to whom God has given authority. However, there is one exception. Because God is our highest authority, we should not allow a leader to pressure us to violate God's law.

**Matthew 16:23 (ESV)**

***<sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."***

***<sup>5</sup> And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe.***

**Acts 24:16 (ESV)**

***<sup>16</sup> So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.***

***<sup>6</sup> He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed." <sup>7</sup> So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.***

#### **POINT #1 You Have To Humble Yourself**

***<sup>8</sup> Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage.***

#### **POINT #2 Give Them A Way Out**

***<sup>9</sup> And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'?"***

#### **POINT #3 Show Signs of Reconciliation**

***<sup>10</sup> Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.' <sup>11</sup> See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it.***

#### **POINT #4 Leave Them In The Hands Of God**

***<sup>12</sup> May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. <sup>13</sup> As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. <sup>14</sup> After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! <sup>15</sup> May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."***

***<sup>16</sup> As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. <sup>17</sup> He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. <sup>18</sup> And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me***

***when the LORD put me into your hands. <sup>19</sup> For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day.***

The means we use to accomplish a goal are just as important as the goal we are trying to accomplish. David's goal was to become king, so his men urged him to kill Saul when he had the chance. David's refusal was not an example of cowardice but of courage—the courage to stand against the group and do what he knew was right. Don't compromise your godly standards by giving in to group pressure or taking the easy way out.

***<sup>20</sup> And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. <sup>21</sup> Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house."***

**POINT #5 Give Time For Repentance To Be Demonstrated**

***<sup>22</sup> And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.***