

1 Samuel 24
Don't Take Matters Into Your Own Hands
Life of David Series
(David: After God's Own Heart)

The Life of David resembles a good news/ bad news story. You know those kind of stories

A) Like the two friends – two guys in their 80's big baseball fans – Padres

B) Discussing one day: Do you think there will be baseball in Heaven

1) There has got to be baseball in heaven

C) So they made a pack that whoever died first – if it was possible they would bring word to the guy who was left –

1) If there was baseball in Heaven

D) Sure enough Bill died first – and about 2 weeks after the funeral – Harry was sleeping one night

E) Bill appeared to him in a dream – Harry good news and bad news –

1) The good news is YES BBALL IN HEAVEN

THE BAD NEWS? YOU ARE PITCHING ON FRIDAY.

David story reads like a good news bad news story.

A) 1 Samuel 16 – the prophet Samuel shows up at David's house to anoint him King over Israel –

GN right?

B) After that David gets sent right back out by his dad to still do the lowest job in the family –

1) Sheep herder – BN!

C) 1 Samuel 17 – David takes a huge step of faith and Kills the Philistine champion Goliath – GN!

David is befriended by King Saul's son and David is given a job at the Palace – More GN!

A) King Saul becomes insanely Jealous of David and tries to kill him several times – BN

B) King Saul puts a contract out on David's life – results in Chasing David all over the country side
More BN

C) God enables David and his men to save the City of Keilah from the Philistines –

1) they are given Shelter in the city – GN

David learns that Saul has found out that David and his men are in the city of Keilah

A) Saul is on his way to the city – BN

B) David finds out that the people he just rescued

1) Are going to turn on him and betray him into the hands of the King – More BN

C) Thus David and his men are on the run again – hiding in Caves – MORE BN

In the Caves is where we find David and his men in our text today

A) I Can guarantee you – this is not how David imagined his life

B) What do you do – how do you respond when your path life takes an unexpected turn for the Worst?

C) Your career hits a snag or a road block – you didn't see coming

Your teen ager starts having problems you never imagined

A) You are married – but your marriage is a far cry from the marriage you dreamed of

B) You are not married but thought – by this time you would be.

When things in your life are not working out the way that you hoped- You have two choices

A) You can take matters into your own hands

B) Or You can step back and wait on God and trust in God.

C) David finds himself in a situation where he has the opportunity to take matters into his own hands

D) What will he do – what would you do?

Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Take note! David *is* in the Wilderness of En Gedi." En Gedi – beautiful Oasis in the desert

² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men (Army Rangers) from all Israel, – (best of the best in the nation) and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

David has 600 men with him – Saul takes 3,000 of the best of the best to pursue David – odds are 5to1 – Little over kill

³ So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there *was* a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs.

That is the Bible’s way of saying he had to use the rest room.

A)Next time you are out to dinner with friends and need to excuse yourself to use the restroom

B)Use that phrase -Excuse me I have to go and attend to my needs – Watch how everyone stares at you when you come back

C)Saul is going to the cave to use the Restroom – most likely #2

(David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)

Note – by the sheepfolds –

A)The Sheep herders loved to bring their sheep to graze in this area –

B)Lush pasture but also large caves – in the case of a storm they could bring their sheep into the cave for shelter

C)So Saul comes walking into the Cave –

1)he can’t see into the recesses because he is coming in from the light

D)But David and his men who have been hiding in the cave – eyes have adjusted –

1)they can tell this is King Saul.

So King Saul wanders into the same cave that David and his men were hiding in.

A)Guys this was no coincidence – this was a Divine appointment but for what reason?

B)David’s men think it means one thing- ⁴ Then the men of David said to him, “This is the day of which the LORD said to you, ‘Behold, I will deliver your

enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.’

C)It would seem from this phrase that there was a prophecy of some sort

1)that David’s enemy would be delivered into his hand

D)David’s men think – this is the moment – and the obvious thing for David to do is to Kill Saul

1)To execute vengeance for all the grievance Saul has brought David over the years

E)At first it seems that David agreed – This was a moment to take matters into his own hands.

And David arose - In Hebrew, that word “arose” indicates decision.

A)David grabs his knife, presumably to get up and kill Saul;

B)But somewhere between the moment that David grabs his knife and the time he gets to King Saul

1)There is a change in his heart

C)David seems to realize to kill Saul in this moment – would be murder not self-defense –

1)it would be wrong

D)David’s men are telling him – this is Divine Providence – this is no coincidence -

E)So In this moment David has a choice to make:

- Will I let my circumstances guide me?
- Will I listen to the outside voice of reason?
- Or will I follow the Word of God?

So David decides to do something else. “And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.

⁵ Now it happened afterward that David’s heart troubled him because he had cut Saul’s *robe*.

A)David’s sensitive heart – he is greatly convicted that he even cut off the robe of Saul’s garment

B)The Devil loves to tempt us situations when we are in a jam –

1)going through a difficulty to take matters into our own hands

C)His temptations usually come in two forms

#1 Rationalized Entitlement – I deserve this

A) Think about how David's life would have changed if Saul were dead.

B) David could have rationalized – theoretically this was self-defense – Saul has been trying to kill me for years.

C) Remember when Satan tempted Jesus in the Wilderness –

1) He tried to appeal to a Sense of entitlement

D) Consider the Kingdoms of the world – this is meant for you right?

E) I can give you this – minus the cross – You deserve it – just bow down to me and it is yours

Satan Did the same thing to Eve in the Garden – Eve you are not going to die if you eat this fruit –

A) You are going to be like God – God is holding out on you – you deserve this.

B) To people who are living in a marriage that is unhappy – Satan loves to whisper in your ear –

1) this is NOT what you signed up for

C) You deserve to be happy.- That other person is going to make you happy –

1) God wants you to be happy doesn't he ?
GO for it

D) SATAN is a master of getting people to take matters into their own hands

1) through rationalized entitlement

Another tactic he loves to use is what I call Calculated Compromise

A) The message here is – I need to help God out.

B) I know God has a plan – but the plan has hit a snag – God needs my help

C) Abraham and Sarah – Promise – Make you are great nation –

1) Your Descendants will be like the Stars

D) 25 yrs pass by and still no children – now they are old – getting older by the minute

Sarah says – Lets help God out –

A) You see my young pretty servant girl we picked up in Egypt Hagar – Sleep with her –

B) She can get pregnant – have the promised Child through her

C) Attempt to produce the promise in the power of the Flesh –

1) to take matters into their own hands – help God out

D) Abe's response..... I can do that!

A sign that you are starting to take matters into your own hands is when

A) you start manipulating things to go your way.

B) You say things like – the end justifies the means

C) David doesn't do that here-In fact he does the opposite ⁶ And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he *is* the anointed of the LORD."

D) David says guys I can't take matters into my own hands.

1) I cannot achieve the purpose of God by breaking the commands of God.

⁷ So David restrained his servants with *these* words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul.

Instead of taking matters into his own hands or allowing his men to take matters into his own hands

A) David exemplifies a heart that is willing to wait on God for his timing and his leading.

B) Waiting on God is not a passive thing – Do nothing

C) It is Active – it is doing what God allows you to do

1) It is walking in obedience to the Lord and his Word

Think of it this way: Have you ever been to a fancy restaurant where the waiters who wait on you –

A) Are attentive your every move.

B) Been a handful of times- quite an experience

C) Been in many restaurants where you have to wave down your waiter when you need something.

But in a Fancy restaurant – the waiter or waitress seems to just sit back watching and anticipating – the need.

A) Water glass – half full – there to fill it – you are thinking – I need some pepper – there they are with Pepper

B) Waiting on God is active like that – anticipating leaning in to see how God is leading –
1) moving – walking in obedience

C) David does that here: He realizes God was not delivering Saul into his hand to kill him –
1) but to show Saul Grace - To reveal the error of his ways

D) Watch how this plays out

V.7b And Saul got up from the cave and went on *his* way.

⁸ David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down. Still showing respect for Saul’s position

⁹ And David said to Saul: “Why do you listen to the words of men who say, ‘Indeed David seeks your harm’? ¹⁰ Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and *someone* urged *me* to kill you. But *my eye* spared you, and I said, ‘I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he *is* the LORD’s anointed.’ ¹¹ Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that *there is* neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. ¹² Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you. ¹³ As the proverb of the ancients says, ‘Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.’ But my hand shall not be against you.

David is saying to King Saul “Your sin doesn’t justify mine.

A) He quotes a proverb from the ancient writers
Wickedness proceeds from the wicked

B) In other words - To treat you wickedly would make me wicked, regardless of what you did to provoke it.”

C) The opposite of that proverb would be, “The ends justify the means.”

D) David is saying: The end doesn’t justify the means

¹⁴ After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea?

A) a dead dog can’t bite you – A flea can’t hurt you – basically saying – I am no threat to you at all.

¹⁵ Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand.”

B) Rather than take matters into my own hands – I am going to continue to trust in God

C) King Saul’s reaction is interesting:

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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. ¹⁹ For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? Therefore may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. ²⁰ And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. ²¹ 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.”

²² So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Here is the interesting thing about King Saul –

A) He has sorrow – he has confession – I am in the wrong – you are more righteous

B) You are clearly God’s Anointed

C) Confession – great – Sorrow – good – But no repentance.

D) Repentance results in a change of attitude – a change of direction – a change of Behavior

E) None of that happens – Saul continues his pursuit of David and his desire to Kill David.

So here we see in this moment in David’s life when he could have taken matters into his own hands

A) And he doesn’t

B) He chooses to wait upon the Lord and his timing rather than trying to fix his problem on his own.

Lamentations 3:25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the person who seeks him. CSB

C) Maybe you are thinking right now: That David is one special guy –

1) I don't know if I could have done that.

Finish today by considering what we can learn from David about waiting on God.

A) On Wednesdays we have been making note of the Psalms that David wrote – correlates with the Narrative –

B) This Wednesday is Magnify – Quick look at Psalm 108 –

C) But another Psalm that David wrote around this time is Psalm 57

Psalm 57 gives us insight into how David was able to not take matters into his own hand

A) But instead – wait on God

B) Don't need to turn there it will be on the screen

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. v. 2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. Psalm 57:1-2 ESV

C) Here is the first reason why David was able to wait on the Lord and resist the temptation to take matters into his own hands

D) David was Trusting in the Sovereign Purpose of God - 2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

David believed that God had a Purpose for his life

A) And this difficult time was a part of the purpose.

B) God was allowing it for a reason- That is such an important thing to remember – going through trials

C) James and Peter both wrote – The trials we go through are meant to build up our faith and strengthen our character

D) When you believe that – when you realize there is a Sovereign purpose of God behind everything that happens

E) You can learn to ask – What is the purpose Lord instead of why is this happening to me.

In Fact let's consider for a moment David's statement about Saul – I will not stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed

I don't know if David realized it at the time –

A) But Saul was not just his enemy he was the Lord's anointed instrument in David's life

B) God was allowing this to go on – God could have killed Saul –

1) but he was allowing King Saul to be his anointed instrument

C) To mold and Shape David into a man after his own heart

1) To mold and shape David to be the leader – that he wanted him to be.

What a testimony this day must have been to David's men –

A) You wonder if in the days that followed –

B) David was King and someone wanted to take him out –

1) if they didn't think about this day and David's example

C) Listen friends the difficult situation that you find yourself in today

1) it is the Lord's anointed instrument – make you more like Jesus.

Here is another thing to think about from this story.

A) Sometimes in the body of Christ – Bros/Sisters who rub us the wrong way

B) Family = Conflict – But have you ever thought that the brother or sister you are at odds with

1) is the Lord's anointed ?

C) His Holy Spirit is living inside of them – his Robe of righteousness covers them

D) When we lash out at a brother or sister – Speak ill of them to others verbally killing them –

1) verbally cutting their robe of righteousness

Can I encourage you- When another Brother of sister is doing or saying things that bother you

A) Practice this prayer: Instead of saying Lord what is wrong with that person – so weird or so

B) Learn to ask the question- What is wrong with me – why is their behavior bothering me so much?

C) What is it revealing about my heart that needs to change.

D) Here is what you might discover – that person is the Lord's anointed

1) you reveal what he wants to change in YOU

So David was able to wait on God because he was #1 trusting in the Sovereign purpose of God

A) #2 Because he was trusting in the Steadfast love of God.

He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah*

God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness! Psalm 57:3 ESV

B) David was trusting in the never ending never change Love of God.

C) God loves you – Gave his son for you – Never give up on you.

Through every High and low in David's life – times when he is right – times when he panics

A) God's love for him remained the same.

B) God is not moody or fickle in his love for you.

C) Because He loves you he is committed to finishing the work he has begun in you

1) Get you to the finish line –

D) Question is – are you going to enjoy the journey or be all over the place – during the journey?

E) Lamentations 3:22-23 The Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases – His mercies never come to an end – new every morning
Great is his Faithfulness!

Close today: Considering- How David is a picture of Jesus in this story.

A) You see, like David, Jesus was anointed King,

B) But like David, Jesus didn't receive that Kingdom immediately; he had to wait,

C) Jesus waited on God – trusting his Father would make things right in his own time

Like David – Jesus was disrespected and snubbed and persecuted and falsely accused.

A) And like David, Jesus was also tempted to take a short cut – take matters into his own hands –

B) Take the short cut in obtaining the World –

C) Take matters into his own hands – avoiding the cross

1) But he never took matters into his own hands.

And like David, Jesus didn't take vengeance on his enemies

A) When he had the opportunity to, and quite frankly the right to.

B) But that is where the story of David and Jesus changes –

C) David spared Saul's life – but Jesus gave up his life in order to Save us

Jesus did more than just spare us, like David spared Saul.

A) Jesus laid down his life for us.

B) Jesus actually died in our place so that we could be forgiven and restored to the palace.

C) Jesus offers you forgiveness today – Removal of your guilt

D) Restore you into relationship with God

E) The Assurance of Heaven

Probably not Baseball in Heaven – all perfect – no Fun

A) But there is abundant life

B) There is Joy everlasting – beyond compare – and beyond your imagination

C) That is what is waiting for you – Trust in Jesus today!