

**“Revenge?”**  
(I Samuel 24)

**Opportunity (1-7)**

*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. I Samuel 24:1-2 ESV*

*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.<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.’” I Samuel 24:3-4 ESV*

*Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe.<sup>5</sup> And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe.<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.” I Samuel 24:5-6 ESV*

*<sup>7</sup> So David persuaded literally tore apart 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. I Samuel 24:7 ESV*

**Appeal (8-15)**

**To Saul**

*<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. I Samuel 24:8 ESV*

*<sup>9</sup> And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men who say, ‘Behold, David seeks your harm’? <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. I Samuel 24:9-11 ESV*

## **To 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. I Samuel 24:12-13 ESV*

*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." I Samuel 24:14-15 ESV*

## **Response (16-22)**

*<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. I Samuel 24:16 ESV*

*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? That is unsound military strategy. So may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. I Samuel 24:17-19 ESV*

*<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." <sup>22</sup> And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold. I Samuel 24:20-22 ESV*

*For what merit is it to endure mistreatment for wrongdoing? Yet if you are mistreated when you do what is right, and you faithfully endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup> In fact, you were called*

*to live this way, because Christ also suffered in your place, leaving you his example for you to follow.*

*<sup>22</sup> He never sinned and he never spoke deceitfully. <sup>23</sup> When he was verbally abused, he did not return with an insult; when he suffered, he would not threaten retaliation. Jesus faithfully entrusted himself into the hands of God, who judges righteously. <sup>24</sup> He himself carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we would be dead to sin and live for righteousness. Our instant healing flowed from his wounding.*

*<sup>25</sup> You were like sheep that continually wandered away, but now you have returned to the true Shepherd of your lives—the kind Guardian who lovingly watches over your souls. I Peter 2:20-25 TPT*

We are to follow Jesus example in suffering.

He didn't retaliate or threaten revenge.

He continually entrusted Himself into the hands of God.

He did it all for us.

## **Application**

Don't take revenge but entrust things into God's hands.

*<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. <sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. <sup>20</sup> Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." <sup>21</sup> Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good. Romans 12:17-21 NLT*

*The LORD hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. <sup>18</sup> The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. <sup>19</sup> The righteous person faces many troubles, but the LORD comes to the rescue each time. Ps 34:17-19 NLT*

*I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”* Revelation 21:3-4 NLT

We can entrust our hard situations to a just and loving father. He will always take care of us!