

1 & 2 SAMUEL

THE LIFE OF DAVID



Sermon Outline

Key verse

May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.

1 Samuel 24:12

David trusted God (more than he trusted himself)

1. Don't take sinful shortcuts

David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul.

1 Samuel 24:7

2. Don't take justice into your own hands

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."

1 Samuel 24:10

3. Don't try to force your own timeline

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.

1 Samuel 24:18-20

DAVID SPARES SAUL

FEBRUARY 8
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Opening Thought

Saul has been pursuing David in an attempt to kill him and keep him from becoming king. In 1 Samuel 24 David demonstrates amazing trust in the Lord when he has the opportunity to kill Saul, but doesn't. We can trust God's timing, knowing that God will fight our battles.

Ice breakers

- Share about a beautiful place that you have been to.
- Why do you think "revenge stories" (movies, books, or even news headlines) are so appealing to people?

Dig Deeper

- In 1 Samuel 24, David clearly had the chance to kill Saul. Why do you think David refused, even though Saul was actively trying to kill him?
- In verse 8 David bowed down to Saul. Why? What is your attitude toward those in authority? (boss, governor, president, parents, church leaders, etc.) Is there an authority figure in your life that you have a difficult time submitting to? How would David act in your position?
- **Read Romans 12:19.** What makes trusting God with justice difficult?
- David could have killed Saul and seized the throne of Israel. But he chose to rely on God to avenge him and establish him as king. How do you know when to take matters into your own hands versus leave them in God's hands?
- John issued three warnings today. Which do you find hardest?
- Jesus chose mercy instead of retaliation at the cross. How does his example reshape how we think about forgiveness and vengeance?

Closing

This week, if you feel the urge to "even the score," pause and pray instead. Ask God for the strength to trust his timing, his justice, and his care. Restraint isn't weakness — it's often the clearest evidence of faith.