

Focus passage: 1 Samuel 24:1-13

When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." **2** 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. **3** 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. **4** 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. **5** And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. **6** 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." **7** 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. **8** 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. **9** And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'?" **10** 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.' **11** 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. **12** May the Lord judge between me and you, may the Lord avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. **13** As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you.

What stands out to you from this passage?

Saul had been pursuing David due to his jealousy and fear of David. Have you ever felt like you were the target of someone's pursuits? Why?

Saul is completely helpless when David finds him. How do you think you'd react? How did David's men want him to do?

Instead of attacking the man who is seeking to kill him, David cuts off the corner of his robe. Why?

*It is easier to retaliate and to seek revenge. David instead seeks to honor Saul, even though he is at this time an enemy, because Saul is anointed by God. What does Jesus teach us to do in regards to our enemy? **Read Matthew 5:38-48.***

*What do you think the result of David's action would be? **Read 1 Samuel 24, 16-22 and 26:1-2.***

The kindness of Saul toward David is temporary, and it seems like David could've had an easier time if he took things into his own hands. Why does he trust God's plan? Does it every seem like it'd be easier if we followed our own path instead of God's?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

