

Life's Most Subtle Temptations

SERIES: DAVID Part 6

1 Samuel 23:14 And David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

1 Samuel 23:8 So Saul summoned all the people for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

1 Samuel 23:29 And David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds of Engedi.

1. A UNIQUE SITUATION

1 Samuel 24:1-4a Now it came about when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, saying, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats. And he came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave. And the men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.'"

2. A SUBTLE TEMPTATION

1 Samuel 24:4b Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off the edge of Saul's robe."

DAVID DOES 3 THINGS

(1) He wrestled with his GUILT.

1 Samuel 24:6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD's anointed."

(2) Declares a RIGHTEOUS principle.

1 Samuel 24:7 And David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

(3) David had absolute CONFIDENCE in God.

Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."

1 Samuel 24:8-11 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself. ⁹ And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men, saying, ‘Behold, David seeks to harm you’? Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today in my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, ‘I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD’s anointed.’ Now, my father, see! Indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, and I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life to take it.”

1 Samuel 24:16-19 (LB) Saul called back, “Is it really you, my son David?” Then he began to cry. And he said to David, “You are a better man than I am, for you have repaid me good for evil. Yes, you have been wonderfully kind to me today, for when the Lord delivered me into your hand, you didn’t kill me.

“Who else in all the world would let his enemy get away when he had him in his power? May the Lord reward you well for the kindness you have shown me today.”

1 Samuel 24:21-22 “Swear 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 household.” And David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his home, but David and his men went back to their cave.

A PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1st - Since man is depraved expect to be MISTREATED.

2nd - Since mistreatment is inevitable anticipate feelings of REVENGE.

3rd - Since the desire for revenge is predictable, refuse to FIGHT in the flesh.

Romans 12:18-19, & 21 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. . . . Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.