



1 Samuel 24

Saul was told that David had gone into the wilderness of Engedi. So Saul chose three thousand special troops...and went to search for David... At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding in that very cave!

"Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him..."to do with (Saul) as you wish." Then David crept forward and cut off a piece of Saul's robe.

But David's conscience began bothering him..."The Lord knows I shouldn't have done it," he said..."It is a serious thing to attack the Lord's anointed one, for the Lord him-self has chosen him." So David sharply rebuked his men and did not let them kill Saul.

After Saul had left the cave...David came out and shouted after him, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him.

Then he shouted to Saul, "Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? This very day you can see with your own eyes it isn't true... my men told me to kill you, but I spared you... Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn't kill you. This proves that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though you have been hunting for me to kill me. The Lord will decide between us. Perhaps the Lord will punish you... but I will never harm you... May the Lord judge which of us is right... He is my advocate, and he will rescue me from your power!"

Saul...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... Who else 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. And now I realize that you are surely going to be king, and Israel will flourish under your rule..." Saul went home. But David and his men went back to their stronghold.

Confronting Conflict

1. Plan A principled Confrontation

- Not consensus "my men told me to kill you, but I spared you" (24:10)
- Not convenience "'Now's your opportunity!' David's men whispered" (24:4)
- Not circumstances "God has surely handed your enemy over to you" (26:8)
- But conscience "David's **conscience** began bothering him..."
"The Lord knows I shouldn't have done it"...So David sharply rebuked his men and did not let them kill Saul." (24:5-7)

The Principle:

*"The Lord gives his own **reward for doing good** and for being loyal" (26:23)*

2. Select A safe Time & Place

"After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way, David came out and shouted" (24:7,8)
"David climbed the hill...until he was at a safe distance" (26:13)

3. Start With Respect & reassurance

"David shouted, 'My lord the king!' And...bowed low before (Saul)" (24:8)
"You can be sure I will never harm you." (24:13)

4. Open With A question, Not An Attack

"Why are you chasing me? What have I done? What is my crime?" (26:18)

5. Own My contribution To The Problem

"If the Lord has stirred you up against me, then let him accept my offering" (24:11)

6. Repay Wrong With radical kindness

David: "This very day you can see with your own eyes it isn't true... I cut (a piece of your robe) off, but I didn't kill you. This proves that I... have not sinned against you"
Saul: "You...have repaid me good for evil...you have been wonderfully kind to me today ...May the Lord reward you well for the kindness you have shown me" (24:10,11,18,19)

7. Don't Drop My defenses

"Saul went home. But David and his men went back to their stronghold" (24:22)

8. Leave justice To The Lord

"The Lord will decide between us. Perhaps the Lord will punish you...but I will never harm you... May the Lord judge which of us is right and punish the guilty one. He is my advocate, and he will rescue me from your power!" (24:11-12,15)