

## 1 Samuel Lesson 45 David Spares the Life of Saul, His Enemy

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

### Background:

**Rocks of the Wild Goat:** another name for the wilderness of En Gedi. It was a rugged and precarious region.

**Hem of Saul's Robe:** this was a special hem on his robe that signified he was the king. It would have symbolized his power and authority.

**Dead dog or single flea:** calling oneself these terms were a way of expressing humility.

**Execution of a previous king's family:** this was a common practice in the ancient Near East. If a king did not ascend the throne by inheritance, he would execute the prior king's descendents in order to eliminate any possible competition or sedition.

### Key word:

**conscience:** H3820 "leb " inner man, mind, will

### Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22 and Psalm 54:1-6

After Saul had returned from pursuing the Philistines, he continued his pursuit of David.

1. In 1 Samuel 24:1-4 how do you see God's providential hand at work? What temptation in the way of opportunity was presented to David and by whom? At first how did David react to the temptation? As Christians we often get advice from others. Before we act on it what should we do?

2. According to 1 Samuel 24:5-7 what stopped David from completely yielding to the temptation? David wrote Psalm 54 previous to this incident. What do we learn about David in regards to personal revenge on one's enemies from this Psalm?

**Application:** When we are hurt it is very human to want to hurt back. What are some ways we may be tempted to harm our enemies? What are some ways you can overcome the temptation to do so? What are some Bible verses that come to mind that address this temptation?

3. In 24:8-15 David confronted Saul. What godly attributes does David demonstrate? Give evidence for each attribute from the text. How can you apply what you learn to your own dealings with those who hurt you or are difficult to get along with?

4. In 24:16-21 we read of Saul's response to David. Initially Saul seems to have repented. Do you think his repentance was genuine or not? Support your opinion from the text.

5. According to 24:22 what did David do that showed he still did not trust Saul?

**Application:** What stood out to you personally in this chapter and why?