

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

*Survivor En-Gedi***1 Samuel 24****David Spares Saul's Life**

1 After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." 2 So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats.

3 He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. 4 The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said ^[a] to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.' " Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

5 Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. 6 He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." 7 With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

8 Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. 9 He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'? 10 This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD's anointed.' 11 See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. 12 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. 13 As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you.

14 "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? 15 May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand."

16 When David finished saying this, Saul asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?" And he wept aloud. 17 "You are more righteous than I," he said. "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. 18 You have just now told me of the good you did to me; 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. 21 Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."

22 So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, May 4

Big Idea: Hearts are formed when we do the right thing and trust our futures to God.

Key Verse:

1 Samuel 24:12...15

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...May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May He consider my cause and uphold it; may He vindicate me by delivering me from your hand

Opening Question: What is the most significant thing that has happened to you in the past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders.

Read the passage.

Discussion Questions

- Unlike the reality television shows, we are all faced with real survival challenges. Amidst the everyday activities of life from paying bills to being a taxi for our kids we face challenges that require wisdom, courage, and action. What might some of these challenges be?**
- List some of the challenges David faced in our passage?
- How did David deal with each challenge, specifically the larger challenge of Saul's life being placed into his hands?
- David's supporters were a hindrance to him as he tried to do the right thing. What might David had been feeling and struggling with during his debate with his men?
- David's act of lying prostrate before Saul was a powerful demonstration of trusting his future to God. Saul could have arrested him or killed him on the spot. Each one of us faces challenges to do the right thing, often without supporters, leaving us with a variety of feelings and struggles within us. Think of a challenge you are facing right now. What would it look like for you to trust your future to God; to lie prostrate before your challenge?**
- This passage shows us the transformation cycle that Bryan shared with us last week. How in David's life did he a) pay attention to the moment; b) turn toward God; c) step forward in faith and d) rise to a new level. Consider your challenge...how might allow the transformation cycle to take root in the challenge you are facing?**
- Spend some time in prayer around the transformation of your heart and those in your group. Take time to pray for each other's hearts to be formed into Christ-likeness.

Leader's Notes

- For this series we will be looking at how hearts are formed. This is an ideal opportunity to look back at the discussions we have had from Change of Heart and Interior Redesign and take another few steps down the road of transformation.*
- Bryan shared a dynamic illustration with us about how everyday events can become transformational moments. They represented a spiral or flywheel with four movements: 1) Pay Attention; 2) Turn Toward God; 3) Step Forward in Faith; 4) Rise to a New Level. As we look at each new account of David's life, work out these four movements in the passage, or which of these movements is the focus of the passage.*