

Study #2 Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 24

24:1 When Saul came back from following the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the wilderness of En-gedi.” 2 Then Saul took 3,000 men chosen from all Israel and went to search for David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats. 3 And he came to some sheepfolds along the road. A cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself while David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 David’s men told him, “This is the day the LORD told you about: ‘I’m putting your enemy into your hands; now you can do to him what you think is right.’”

David quietly got up and cut off the border of Saul’s robe. 5 But afterward David’s conscience troubled him because he had cut off the border of Saul’s robe. 6 “The LORD forbid,” he told his men, “that I should do this to my lord, whom the LORD anointed, that I should raise my hand against him since he’s the one the LORD anointed.” 7 So David stopped his men by saying this to them and didn’t let them attack Saul.

Saul left the cave and went along the road. 8 Later David also got up and left the cave and called after Saul, “My lord and king!” When Saul looked back, David bowed down with his face to the ground and honored him. 9 David asked Saul, “Why do you listen to others who say, ‘David is trying to harm you?’ 10 Today you see how the LORD put you into my hands in the cave, and although I was told to kill you, I spared you, saying, ‘I will not raise my hand against my master, because he is the LORD’s anointed.’ 11 Now look, my father, yes, see the border of your robe in my hand. Since I cut off the border of your robe and didn’t kill you, you should understand and see I mean no harm or rebellion. I haven’t sinned against you, and yet you plot to kill me. 12 May the LORD act as judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you, but I will not raise my hand against you. 13 It is like the saying of people long ago: ‘Wickedness comes from the wicked.’ But my hand will not be against you. 14 For whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog! A flea! 15 So the LORD must judge and decide between you and me, and watch and defend me, and set me free from you.”

16 When David finished saying this to Saul, Saul asked, “Is this your voice, my son David?” and Saul wept out loud. 17 “You are more righteous than I,” he told David; “you acted kindly to me while I did evil to you. 18 You have shown today how kind you’ve been to me: When the LORD put me in your hands, you didn’t kill me. 19 When a man finds his enemy, does he send him away with kindness? The LORD will richly repay you for what you did to me today. 20 And now, I know you will certainly be king and in your hands the kingdom of Israel will endure. 21 Swear to me, then, by the LORD that you will not destroy my descendants or wipe out my name from my father’s family.”

22 So David swore to Saul. Then Saul went home, and David and his men went up to the stronghold.