

David: Life Lessons

Week 4 – Faithfulness in the Wilderness
(1 Samuel 24:1-22)

OPENING QUESTION

Do you trust **the Lord's timing**, or do you take matters into your own hands?

KEY VERSE

“May the LORD judge between me and you, and may the LORD take vengeance on you for me, but my hand will never be against you.” -1 Samuel 24:12

THE STORY UNFOLDS

1. Saul hunts David **in the wilderness**. (1 Samuel 24:1-2)

David is chosen by God but still **living in caves**.

Life Lesson: God often forms His servants in seasons where His promise is certain, but **His timing is not immediate**.

2. Saul enters the cave **where David is hiding**. (1 Samuel 24:3-4)

The men think David should **kill Saul and take the throne**.

Life lesson: Opportunity does not **always equal permission**. Not every open door is obedience to the Lord.

3. David's **conscience restrains him**. (1 Samuel 24:5-7)

David secretly cuts off the corner of Saul's robe, but afterward, **David's conscience troubles him**.

Life Lesson: Faithfulness refuses **to take by sin** what God has **promised to give** in His time.

4. David honors Saul **while telling the truth**. (1 Samuel 24:8-15)

David exits the cave and calls, **“My lord the king!”** He shows Saul the corner of the robe and says, “May the LORD judge between me and you.” David refuses to repay evil with evil.

Life Lesson: Faithfulness tells the truth **without taking vengeance**.

5. Saul recognizes **David's righteousness**. (1 Samuel 24:16-19)
Saul admits David has done good while **Saul has done evil**.
But Saul's tears do not prove **lasting repentance**.

Life Lesson: A moment of emotion is not the same as a genuine heart **surrendered to God**.

6. Saul admits David will be king, and David **keeps his word**.
(1 Samuel 24:20-22)

Saul says, "Now I know for certain you will be king" and asks David not to **cut off his descendants**.

David swears to Saul, showing mercy but **walking with caution** about what may come next.

Then Saul goes home, but David returns to the stronghold.

Life Lesson: Faithfulness waits for God to fulfill His promise in **His way** and in **His time**.

THE MAIN IDEA

What is true?

God's people **can trust the Lord's timing** because He is the righteous judge who fulfills His promises.

What should we do?

Refuse **sinful shortcuts**, entrust justice **to the Lord**, and remain faithful **while you wait** on Him. If it requires sin, it is not faithfulness. Faithfulness keeps obeying when the promise feels delayed.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

David spared a sinful king under God's judgment. But Jesus bore the punishment sinners deserved and satisfied God's justice at the cross. Because God has shown His justice and mercy in Christ, we can trust His timing, leave judgment to Him, and **remain faithful while we wait**.

APPLICATION

1. Leave room **for God to work**. We often want to fix the situation ourselves—to force reconciliation, win the argument, get revenge, manipulate circumstances, or hurry God's timing. But faithfulness sometimes means waiting instead of forcing.
2. Guard your heart **when you've been wronged**. Being wronged does not give us permission to become ungodly.
3. Honor God **more than your circumstances**. Choose obedience over convenience. Choose faithfulness over quick results. Choose God's way over the easier way.