



THE TENSION I'M IGNORING

YOUR MOVE 2026 SERIES: EPISODE 4 OF 6

1 Samuel 24

MAIN IDEA: TENSION IS OFTEN GOD'S WARNING BEFORE CLARITY BECOMES HIS DIRECTION.

AM I PAYING ATTENTION TO TENSION — OR EXPLAINING IT AWAY?

IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE OF DECISION-MAKING, SITUATIONS COME UP WITH UNSPOKEN TENSION. THIS TENSION IS OFTEN VERY SUBTLE.

THERE ARE OFTEN MORAL/ETHICAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPTIONS WE CONSIDER. THIS TENSION SOMETIMES ARISES SUBTLY.

- **CONSCIENCE: "I SHOULDN'T DO THIS."**
- **HESITATION: "I CAN'T PULL THE TRIGGER."**
- **UNEASINESS: "SOMETHING FEELS OFF."**

After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of En-gedi. So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats. 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 farther back in that very cave! Now's your opportunity! David's men whispered to him.

OPPORTUNITY DOES NOT ALWAYS EQUAL PERMISSION.

Today the Lord is telling you 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.'

So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe. But then David's conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul's robe.

IT IS NOT SMART TO REPLACE THAT WHICH GOD HAS PUT IN PLACE.

DAVID HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE OUTCOME OF HIS DECISION WOULD BE.

IF YOU WAIT FOR CLARITY BEFORE YOU OBEY TENSION, YOU'LL USUALLY WAIT TOO LONG.

David said to his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn't attack the Lord's anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him.

So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul. After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way, 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. For the Lord placed you at my mercy back there in the cave. Some of my men told me to kill you, but I spared you. For I said, 'I will never harm the king—he is the Lord's anointed one.' Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of the hem 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. May the Lord judge between us. Perhaps the Lord will punish you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you.

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