

DAVID – Developing a Heart for God

Lesson 4: A Matter of Conscience (I Samuel 24)
Women in the Word Scripture Reference Notes – October 6, 2026

Let's see what happened, since we left off in Chapter 20.

Chapter 21 David and his men and the Holy Bread.

Chapter 22 David escapes to a cave and he gathers around him 400 men.
Saul kills the priests at Nob.

Chapter 23 David saves the City of Keilah.
Johnathan found David in the wilderness and encouraged him.
Saul again was told where David was and he pursues him again, but gets called away to fight the Philistines.

Now we have made it to our chapter for today. Chapter 24:1-2

We have Saul after pursuing the Philistines, he was again informed about David's whereabouts. So Saul takes 3,000 men to hunt down David! Saul was pursuing David in his own strength!

Psalms 20:7

*"Some praise their chariots and some their horses,
But we will praise the name of the Lord, our God."*

Have you ever tried to pursue something in your own strength? Even good things sometimes?

Here in Chapter 24 David is being led of the Lord.

Does God sometimes allow bad things to happen to good people? YES

What Saul was doing was against God's anointed future king, so it was against God's will. Saul was acting in his own strength and his own flesh. It was sin to do what he was doing.

At the same time God was using this hardship in David's life. David learned to trust God in the midst of his running from Saul.

Is God able to use sin, hardship, failure, fleshly actions, etc., for good? YES

Abraham & Sarah
Joseph's brothers
Joseph & Potiphar's wife
Moses
Many examples- old and new testaments

Prime example is Jesus himself. God used the sin of the Pharisees and Judas to kill Jesus which brought about the way of salvation for all mankind.

Romans 8:28 *"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*

Romans 8:38-39 *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

1 Samuel 24:3-7

David knows that Saul is the Lord's current anointed king, and he is not willing to take matters into his own hands. He is willing to let God end Saul's kingship in His time.

1 Samuel 24:8-15

David was unjustly hunted by Saul, yet David respected God's anointed king. He trusted God.

David had observed God protect him from wild animals, Goliath, the Philistines several times, and now king Saul. David desired for Saul to understand that he was loyal to his king, so he showed Saul the piece of the robe that he cut off, proving that he spared Saul's life.

1 Samuel 24:16-22

Saul seems repentant of his pursuit of David (it won't last).

Saul admits that he knows that David will be king. (verse 20)

Johnathon tells David in 1 Samuel 23:17 that Saul knows that David will be king.

Saul has a favor to ask of David and that is that David will not destroy my name out of my father's house. David agrees.

As David trusts God to protect him and make him king in His timing, David is able to resist killing Saul. **David knows that God's timing is better than his. God keeps His promises.**

David in this story was trusting God and not his own understanding. You cannot trust a God you do not know.

What do we know about God that can help us when we feel pressed on every side?

As a believer and a child of God, He will never leave us or forsake us.

Deuteronomy 31:6	Hebrews 13:5
Isaiah 41:10	Matthew 28:20
Joshua 1:9	Psalms 46:1
Psalms 23:4	Isaiah 43:2
Romans 8:38-39	Psalms 94:14

God is faithful to use hardship for our good.

Romans 8:28	James 1:2-4
Romans 5:3-5	Job 23:10
2 Corinthians 4:17	Psalms 119:71

God uses hardship to reveal himself to us.

The plagues in Egypt

God is not surprised by the hardship in your life. He knows! He cares.

He may not remove it - Paul
2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Job

God uses hardship combined with God's faithfulness to increase our faith.

God did this with Israel over and over again.

What does David write about this event in 1 Samuel 24?

Psalms 57

Psalms 142

*Next Week – October 13
Lessons 5 & 6 – Secure in the Lord and Finding Strength in the Lord*