



# Summer in the Psalms

## SONGS OF SUMMER, PART 2: MERCY IN THE CAVE

We've all been wronged, betrayed, or misunderstood—and when that happens, the temptation to strike back is strong. Whether it's clapping back online, cutting someone off, or plotting revenge in our minds, we often think payback will bring peace. But what if the real test of our character isn't how we act in the spotlight, but how we respond in the shadows when no one else is watching.

### BIG IDEA: **Mercy in the dark reveals the heart.**

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of a time when you wanted to “clap back” and get revenge at someone who wronged you? What did you end up doing, and how did it affect you?
2. *With your Bible or your Bible App, [read 1 Samuel 24:3-7](#).*

*<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> The men said, “This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said 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. <sup>5</sup> Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. <sup>6</sup> 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.” <sup>7</sup> With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.*

*[1 Samuel 24:3-7 \(NIV\)](#)*

3. Why did David choose to show mercy instead of taking revenge? What does this decision reveal about David’s character?
4. *With your Bible or your Bible App, [read 1 Samuel 24:8-12](#).*

*<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you’? <sup>10</sup> 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.’ <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.*

*[1 Samuel 24:8-12 \(NIV\)](#)*

5. What stands out to you about David’s speech to Saul? What do you think it cost David to show mercy publicly like this?
6. *With your Bible or your Bible App, [read Psalm 57:1-2](#).*

*When he had fled from Saul into the cave.*

*<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. <sup>2</sup> I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills [his purpose] for me. <sup>3</sup> He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me; Selah God sends his love and his faithfulness. <sup>4</sup> I am in the midst of lions; I lie among ravenous beasts—men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords. <sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O*

*God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth. <sup>6</sup> They spread a net for my feet—I was bowed down in distress. They dug a pit in my path—but they have fallen into it themselves. Selah <sup>7</sup> My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. [Psalm 57:1-7 \(NIV\)](#)*

7. How does this prayer connect to David's decision in the cave?
8. What does it look like to trust God to "fulfill His purpose" instead of forcing our way forward?
9. David worships while still in the cave. What does it look like to have a "steadfast heart" even when your circumstances haven't changed?
10. Who is your "Saul"—someone who has hurt you, misunderstood you, or betrayed you? What would mercy look like in that relationship right now?
11. Pastor Jimmy said, "*The cave isn't just a hiding place—it's a proving ground.*" What are the caves or dark places in your life where your character is being tested?
12. *With your Bible or your Bible App, [read Matthew 5:44.](#)*

*But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!*

[Matthew 5:44 \(NLT\)](#)

13. How can we practically love and pray for someone who has wronged us? What's one step you could take this week to extend mercy instead of revenge?

## MOVING FORWARD

Mercy may not make headlines, but it forms the kind of heart God honors. In the caves of life—when no one else is watching—God is forming you. Trust His timing, His justice, and His promises. Lay down the need to retaliate, and let Him write a better story than revenge ever could.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Most of our battles today aren't fought with swords but with words. How do you see this playing out in your relationships, social media, or workplace? What helps you hold your tongue when you're tempted to fight back?

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. <sup>2</sup> I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his purpose for me.*

*Psalms 57:1-2*