

Series: Matters of the Heart

“A Sensitive Heart”

1 Samuel 24

October 11, 2020

24 *When Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the wilderness near En-gedi.”² So Saul took three thousand of Israel’s fit young men and went to look for David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.³ When Saul came to the sheep pens along the road, a cave was there, and he went in to relieve himself. David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave,⁴ so they said to him, “Look, this is the day the Lord told you about: ‘I will hand your enemy over to you so you can do to him whatever you desire.’ ” Then David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul’s robe.*

⁵ *Afterward, David’s conscience bothered him because he had cut off the corner of Saul’s robe.⁶ He said to his men, “As the Lord is my witness, I would never do such a thing to my lord, the Lord’s anointed. I will never lift my hand against him, since he is the Lord’s anointed.”⁷ With these words David persuaded his men, and he did not let them rise up against Saul.*

1. The Sensitive Heart Refuses to Seek Revenge.

David refused revenge...

- **Even when circumstances seem to allow it.** (vs. 3)
“When Saul came to the sheep pens along the road, a cave was there, and he went in to relieve himself. David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.”
- **Even when counselors advised it.** (vs. 4) *“Look, this is the day the Lord told you about: ‘I will hand your enemy over to you so you can do to him whatever you desire.’”*

2. The Sensitive Heart Respects Authority.

Afterward, David’s conscience bothered him because he had cut off the corner of Saul’s robe. ⁶ He said to his men, “As the Lord is my witness, I would never do such a thing to my lord, the Lord’s anointed. I will never lift my hand against him, since he is the Lord’s anointed.” ⁷ With these words David persuaded his men, and he did not let them rise up against Saul. (vss. 5-7)

3. The Sensitive Heart Responds Well to Hurt

Three levels of response to hurt.

- The **human** level.
- The **evil** level.
- The **divine** level.

How did David respond to the hurt he had been given?

- **David was careful with his words.**
“When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.” (Proverbs 10:19)
- **David sought reconciliation, but was aware of the risk.**
⁸After that, David got up, went out of the cave, and called to Saul... (vss. 8-15)
- **David was grounded in the belief that God was in control.**
(vs. 12) “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.”

A Prayer When We've Been Hurt:

Heavenly Father, I thank you that Jesus Christ took my sins when he didn't deserve them. I confess to you that I am resentful toward _____.

Even though Jesus Christ died for my sins, I am angry because of what _____ has done.

Father, please forgive me for harboring anger and bitterness. Set me free from this burden today and please keep me from it for the rest of my life. Teach me to forgive as Jesus did. I pray this in the name of Jesus who forgave me all my sins, Amen.