

After God's Own Heart **Trusting God's Sovereignty**

1 Samuel 24:1-15

We desire to be people after God's Own Heart; 1 & 2 Samuel shows us what it looks like (& doesn't). Today we are going to see another quality to embody! But...

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." **Psalm 32:8**

Main Idea: People After God's Own Heart Trust that God is In Sovereign Control

*"When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, 'Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.' 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. 3 And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. 4 And the men of David said to him, 'Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 5 And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 6 He said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed.' 7 So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way. 8 Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, 'My lord the king!' And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. 9 And David said to Saul, 'Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? 10 Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' 11 See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. 12 May the Lord judge between me and you, may the Lord avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. 13 As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. 14 After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! 15 May the Lord therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand.'" **1 Samuel 24:1-15***

Two Ways to Trust in God's Sovereignty from 1 Samuel 24:1-15

I. Trust in God's Sovereignty by Yielding to His Word (Vs. 1-7)

A summary statement of 1 & 2 Samuel could be "Israel Searches for their REAL King" and this passage provides a contrast to two options. As Saul used the cave as a bathroom stall, David had a choice. The tactical thing to do was to kill King Saul (which would solve most every one of David's problems). David's soldiers saw it as God opening a door opportunity for him to end this mess (they misquoted or manufactured Scripture in vs. 4 to support it, too). But God's word!

"You shall not murder." **Exodus 20:13**

"You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people." **Exodus 22:28**

*"Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe...He said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed.' So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way." **1 Samuel 24:4b, 6-7***

It is tragically easy to confuse our desires/circumstances for the will of God. I've seen it most in the areas of romance (struggling marriage & spark with someone else = Will of God?) & finance (New I-phone comes out the same day the credit card company increases your limit = Will of God?). Our desires will cause us to read circumstances in such a way that we mistake it all for the will of God. It's so easy!!!

"It is important that we always test circumstances by the Word of God." **W. Wiersbe**

Main Idea: People After God's Own Heart Trust that God is In Sovereign Control

II. Trust in God's Sovereignty by Waiting for His Will (Vs. 8-15)

"This act was far from meaningless because David's confiscation of a portion of the royal robe...symbolically invalidated Saul's claim to kingship." **David Bergen**

*"And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. He said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed.'" **1 Samuel 24:5-6***

"Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us." **Psalm 123:2**

"We wait not by sitting still but by pursuing God's purposes in God's ways with God's timing. It may seem like the real enemy before us is Saul, seeking to destroy us. But from God's perspective the inability to wait is much more pernicious."

J.D. Greear

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Has your life has taken a turn or landed in a miserable season (marriage, boss, anxiety/depression). The choice: take matters into our own hands (retaliation against the deserving or stolen pleasures of drugs/sloth/gluttony) or trust the Lord enough to wait for his sovereign will. The warning: revenge or indulgence in the face of unmet expectations always ends the same: more heartache, pain, & misery (Saul's story)!

David trusted in God's sovereignty by yielding to his word & waiting for his will which resulted in enjoying the promises of God!

"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by."

Psalm 57:1

The resources for self-control in seasons of waiting are ours because of the steadfast love of Jesus. He refrained from pouring out wrath on our sins, even though we deserved it (like Saul did). Like David, Jesus rejected the shortcut to the throne offered by Satan which would have side-stepped the cross and sold us out.

Jesus chose to remain self-controlled and steadfast to the Father's will so that by his sufferings and misery we could live! Trust in Him today!!!

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities

- **CSB Study Bible** – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- **Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel** – J.D. Greear & Heath Thomas (2016)
- **Wiersbe Expository Outlines on the OT** – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- **New American Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel** – Robert D. Bergen (1996)
- **Spurgeon Study Bible** – C.H. Spurgeon (2017)
- **First and Second Samuel** – Eugene H. Peterson (1999)
- **Tony Evans Study Bible** – Tony Evans (2019)
- **The Eerdmans Companion to the Bible** – Gordon D. Fee (2011)