

David the Great

1 Samuel 24 & 26

July 26, 2026

1 Samuel 24:1-11 (NLT)

¹ After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of Engedi. ² 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. ³ 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! ⁴ “Now’s your opportunity!” David’s men whispered to him. “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. ⁵ But then David’s conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul’s robe. ⁶ He 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.” ⁷ So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul. After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way, ⁸ David came out and shouted after him, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him. ⁹ Then he shouted to Saul, “Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? ¹⁰ 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.’” ¹¹ 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.

1: David’s Character:

- Developed a **sensitivity** to the Holy Spirit. v. 5
- Showed **restraint**. v. 6-7

1 Samuel 24:6-7 (NLT)

⁶ He 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.” ⁷ So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.

Restraint – a hold, a limit, or calm self-control. It is the act of stopping something from moving or growing, or a rule that holds you back.

1: David’s Character:

- Displayed **humility** and **loyalty**. vs. 8b-15

1 Samuel 24:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ Who is the king of Israel trying to catch anyway? Should he spend his time chasing one who is as worthless as a dead dog or a single flea?

1 Peter 5:6 (NLT)

⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

James 4:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

1: David’s Character:

- Man of his **word**. v. 22

Deuteronomy 19:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ “You must not convict anyone of a crime on the testimony of only one witness. The facts of the case must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

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2: I will not touch/harm the Lord's anointed:

1 Samuel 24:6 (NLT)

⁶He 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."

Fire Bible notes: David and Saul's unique situation must not become a reason or excuse for permitting spiritual leaders in the church to keep defying God.

1 Samuel 26:9-11 (NLT)

⁹"No!" David said. "Don't kill him. For who can remain innocent after attacking the LORD's anointed one? ¹⁰Surely the LORD will strike Saul down someday, or he will die of old age or in battle. ¹¹The LORD forbid that I should kill the one he has anointed! But take his spear and that jug of water beside his head, and then let's get out of here!"

David's respect for human authority was based on his respect for divine authority.

3: What is our response to those who would attempt to harm you?

James 1:5-8 (NLT)

⁵If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

2 Ways to Respond:

- Revenge

Romans 12:19-20 (NLT)

¹⁹Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. ²⁰Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."

2 Ways to Respond:

- Love and Grace

Luke 6:27-29 (NLT)

²⁷"But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.