

## Sermon Notes – 1 Samuel 24 David Chooses Life Over Death

In this ancient story, the nation needs a new king. The king they have is corrupt. He's awful. He's ruining the nation for all the people.

And God has stepped in and said, "I'll give you a new king." And he even told them who it would be – David. David would be the new king. David would make a great king.

**One problem** -- We still have an old king. Saul won't step down. In fact, he will kill to remain king. *And that's his plan.*

### David Hides – Read 1 Samuel 23:14, 24:1-2

*Engedi... was a perfect hideout for David. I've been to Engedi. It hasn't changed much since the days of David. It was an oasis in the desert wilderness, where there were fresh water springs, waterfalls, lush vegetation, and countless caves in the rocky limestone cliffs, high above the Dead Sea. Engedi was a perfect place to hide. It provided protection and water and a natural lookout spot where he could see for miles around, to guard against any enemy's approach. – Chuck Swindoll, David, p 83*

David has one advantage. You can't hide 3000 men. You can't sneak up with 3000 men. David sees them coming and hides.

### God Reverses the Situation – Read 1 Samuel 24:3

*Saul went into the cave for a "pit stop."*

You do understand the King doesn't just go behind a tree?

### David's Men See An Opportunity – Read 1 Samuel 24:4

If the Old Testament is full of death, than it is even more important here to understand why David chose life.

### Cutting Off Rather than Killing – Read 1 Samuel 24:4b

It at first appears that though David is unwilling to kill the guy, he is not unwilling to be cute. He wants Saul to know that he could have killed him if wanted.

But it is more than that. The key words here are "**Cut Off.**"

In those days, if you got a new king, you killed every one who might in any way lay claim to be the new king because of their family relation. They were **Cut Off.**

David is sending a message to Saul in a pretty significant way that... I might not kill you, but your entire family will be **Cut Off.**

### David Regrets It – Read 1 Samuel 24:5-7

When Jesus said, "*The last will be first and the first shall be last,*" it became a key phrase to understanding the Kingdom of God.

## **David Switches Places with Saul – Read 1 Samuel 24:8**

David puts himself into the weak position on purpose.

This is the kind of thing that doesn't make any sense to us. And yet this is exactly what Jesus Christ did by putting Himself on the cross. Jesus Christ reversed positions with humanity. He made them first and made himself last. Insane!! But the hope is for the Kingdom to come because of just such actions.

## **David Paints the Picture of the Kingdom – 1 Samuel 24:9-13**

Rather than respond with force, David responds with weakness and yet with honesty and goodness.

David wants to be king. David wants to fix the wrongs and make them right, but he can't as long as Saul lives, but he refuses to take a short cut to the Kingdom of God.

## **David Puts His Full Trust in God – Read 1 Samuel 24:14-15**

If you ask me, David trusts God here a thousand times more than when he went up against Goliath the monster.

## **Saul Asks Not to be Cut Off – Read 1 Samuel 24:16-21**

Death is one thing, but to be Cut Off. To have your whole family wiped out. It isn't just a personal thing. It is a societal thing. At least, let my children live.

As much as we may think the Old Testament is full of death, here is an example of where it longs for life, for renewal, for a re-creation of the Kingdom.

## **David Chooses Life Over Death – Read 1 Samuel 24:22**

Saul will die. David will be king. But not today. Saul's line will not die, and they will participate in the Kingdom to come.

Jesus Christ said: *The first shall be last and the last first.*

*History is not a series of accidental events. History is the working out of a promise that "brings down and raises up," that "makes poor and makes rich" that "brings low and exalts. (1 Samuel 2:6-7) – Walter Brueggemann*

That doesn't just mean that God will make you last in order to restore someone undeserving to first. But He will raise you back up from last to first. This is the way history unfolds. This is why your life is up and down. There is always a purpose, and that purpose is the restoration of all things. This is the Gospel.