

I. Introduction.

II. David spares Saul's life in the cave near Engedi. 24:1-7

- A. Saul again pursues David. v. 1-2
- B. David has his golden opportunity to kill Saul. v. 3-5
 - 1. Saul is in an extremely vulnerable position. v. 3 Judg. 3:24 I Ki. 18
 - 2. David's men are sure the LORD has given him this chance to kill Saul. v. 4a
 - 3. Why does David cut off the edge of Saul's robe? v. 4b 15:27f 18:4 I Ki. 11:30ff
 - 4. David is conscience-stricken. v. 5b II Sam. 24:10
- C. David will not let harm come to Saul. v. 6-7
 - 1. He refuses to stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed. v. 6 10:6,10 16:13 26:11 Ex. 22:28
 - 2. David forcefully restrains his men from rising up against Saul. v. 7a
 - 3. David lets Saul escape unharmed. v. 7b

III. David proclaims his innocence to Saul. v. 8-15

- A. David shows respect to Saul. v. 8,11 26:17f Pr. 24:21
- B. David makes his defense. v. 9-11,13-14 Pr. 25:15,21-22
 - 1. "Don't listen to those who falsely accuse me of treason." v. 9 26:19 Pr. 29:12
 - 2. "I had mercy upon you when I could have easily killed you. v. 10
 - 3. "I have physical proof of my innocence." v. 11a
 - 4. "I have restrained myself in spite of all the evil you have done against me." v. 11b
 - 5. "My actions prove that there is no wickedness in me." v. 13 Mk. 7:20-23 Is. 32:6ff
 - 6. "Why waste your time chasing someone who is no threat to you?" v. 14 26:20 II Sam. 9:9 16:9 II Ki. 8:13
- C. David asks LORD to judge between him and Saul. v. 12,15 Pr. 14:26
 - 1. David refuses to take revenge, but trusts the LORD to deal with Saul. v. 12 14:24 25:31 Lev. 19:18 Dt. 32:43 Is. 1:24
 - 2. David will continue to trust the LORD to plead his case and protect him. v. 15 25:39 Pr. 22:23
 - 3. David trusts that he will receive the promised crown without taking shortcuts.

IV. Saul acknowledges David's righteousness. v. 16-22

- A. Saul is deeply moved by David's mercy. v. 16-19a Ps. 37:6
 - 1. He calls David his son. v. 16
 - 2. Saul admits David's righteousness and his own wickedness. v. 17-19 Gen. 38:26
- B. Saul acknowledges that David will be king. v. 19b-20 23:17 13:14 15:28
- C. Saul pleads with David to swear that he will not wipe out his descendants when David rules. 20:14-17 31:2 II Sam. 21:7-9 9:7ff I Ki. 25:28ff 16:11 II Ki. 10:11ff
- D. Saul's remorse does not last. 26:1ff

1. This is not the only time Saul appears to have a conscience. 15:24,30 19:1ff
2. Evil men can have remorse over their sin without actually repenting. Ex. 9:27 Mt. 27:3-4 Heb. 12:16-17
3. What is the difference between worldly sorrow and true repentance? II Co. 7:10ff
4. Don't be like Saul! Jesus offers you a way of escape from sin. Ps. 95:7-8 Mt. 11:28

V. How does this passage point to Christ?

- A. Like David, Jesus refused to grasp the crown before the cross. Heb. 5:4 Mt. 4:1-11
 1. David was tempted to take a shortcut to the kingdom which had been promised.
 2. Jesus faced the same temptation. Mt. 4:1-11 Ps. 2:6-9
 3. Jesus' disciples also tried to encourage him to take the shortcut. Mark 8:31-33
- B. Jesus refused to retaliate against His enemies. Mt. 12:53-54 John 18:11 I Pe. 2:21-24
- C. Jesus did good to His enemies. Luke 23:34 Rom. 5:8,10
- D. Jesus, after completing His suffering, entered into the fulness of His glory. I Co. 15:25 Heb. 12:2
- E. Even Jesus' enemies will acknowledge His Lordship. 24:19b-20 Phil. 2:9-11

VI. How does David (and Jesus) set an example for us?

- A. We need to be very careful about reading God's will into the circumstances of our lives. v. 4a 24:4 15:24 Prov. 3:5-6 29:25 II Tim. 3:16-17
- B. God wants us to respect those He has placed in authority over us, even if they seem unworthy. v. 6b,8b Rom. 13:1-7 I Pe. 2:13-17 3:1-7 5:5 Eph. 5:22-6:8 Heb. 13:17
- C. It is not our place to take our own revenge. v. 6,15 Rom. 12:17-21 Eph. 4:32
- D. Jesus calls us to imitate Him by loving our enemies. Mt. 5:43ff Ro. 12:20f
- E. Is it wrong for us to appeal to the LORD to bring justice? v. 12a Ro. 12:19 Ps. 35:1 43:1 94:1-3 Rev. 6:9-11
- F. Don't cut corners -- Expect a cross before the crown. Mark 8:34ff I Pe. 4:12ff
- G. We shall reign with Christ as kings and priests. I Tim. 2:12a Rev. 5:10 20:6 22:5

Discussion questions

1. How can you evaluate an open door to know if it is a great opportunity from the LORD or a temptation?
2. What shortcuts are you tempted to take in life?
3. How does God use suffering in your life to prepare you for glory?
4. In what situations in your life must you simply rely upon God's justice instead of taking matters into your own hands?
5. To which authorities in your life do you have the hardest time showing respect?
6. Why was it right for David to kill Philistines, but wrong for him to kill Saul?
7. Is it right for us to pray that God will punish the wicked who harm us?
8. What is the difference between worldly sorrow and true repentance?
9. How does David serve as a type of Christ in this passage?

10. What good do you plan to do for an enemy this Christmas?