

Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study - Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Study Series: A Man After God's Own Heart

Part 5: David Spares Saul's life: Waiting on

God's timing

Scripture: 1 Samuel 24:1-22

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*1 Samuel 24:5-7 "Now it happened afterward that **David's heart troubled him** because he had cut Saul's robe. And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD." So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way".*

Question: What Character of David do you desire?

Introduction: In our fast paced world, waiting can be burdensome or frustrating; however, we learned from the bible that waiting is not a sign of weakness but a vital part of our faith journey. The story of David in 1 Sam.24 teaches us that waiting is not a passive act but an expression of faith and trust in God's timing. David modelled an example of **Restraint, Respect and Reliance** on God, even in the face of adversity and temptation. David's example in 1 Samuel 24 shows us that waiting on God's timing, acting with integrity, and trusting His sovereignty leads to God's deliverance and honor.

Passage Overview: 1 Sam.24 recounts David's story of how he spared Saul's life while he was on the run and hide at the cave of En Gedi (En Gedi was near the western coast of the Red Sea) but was pursued by Saul, who sought to kill him out of jealousy and fear.

As God would have it, David finds Saul in a vulnerable position but chooses not to revenge, demonstrating his faith and patience. *Why did David spare Saul when he had the opportunity to kill him?*

"David's heart troubled him" why? (because the robe was a symbol of Saul's royal authority; David sees Saul as God's appointed authority).

Lessons Learned:

1. **The context of waiting:** *What does waiting mean to you? Reflecting on your own life, are there promises God has given you that require waiting?* David had been anointed as the future king of Israel but was forced to wait for the fulfillment of God's promises. This period was filled with trials, as he faced relentless pursuits of Saul. *How can you remain faithful during the time of waiting?*
2. **The Temptation:** 1 Sam.24:3-4 *"So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.) Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'"* David's men see Saul as a perfect opportunity to kill their enemy. They urged David to act, but David refrains, recognizing the potential consequences of taking the matter into his own hands against waiting on God's timing. Q: *How can we discern when to Act and When to wait?* We are often faced with temptations to take shortcuts or acts according to our flesh responses.
3. **The Power of Restraint:** *Restraint is defined as a measure or condition that keeps someone or something under control or within limits.* David's choice to cut off a piece of Saul's robe instead of killing him illustrates the power of restraint. Similarly, we see David's respect for God's anointed leader, even when Saul was in the wrong.

Let's talk about situations where exercising restraint has been difficult? What can we learn from

David's example about respecting authority and trusting God's plan?

4. **The impact of our choices:** 1 Sam. 24:8-11 How can our responses to delay, conflict or adversity affect those around us? Do our responses reflect God's character? In 1 Sam. 24:8-11 Saul acknowledges David's righteousness and expresses remorse after David reveals his actions to him. David was a man of integrity; he did not allow Saul's evil behavior to affect his action.
5. **Waiting in Faith:** Psalms 40:1 (TPT) *'I waited and waited and waited some more, patiently, knowing God would come through for me....'* what does it mean to wait in faith? Honoring His sovereign plan rather than forcing our own. David's refusal to harm Saul illustrates his deep faith in God's timing and justice. He firmly believed that God would ultimately deliver him and establish his kingdom.

Q: *In What areas do you find it most challenging to wait on God?*

Practical Steps to strengthen our Faith as we wait on God

1. **Prayer:** David was always seeking counsel from God. 1 Sam 23:1-2 *"Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors. "Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and ^[a]attack these Philistines?"*
2. **Perseverance:** Psalms 27:14 *"Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord,"* In our moments of waiting we must not be tempted to take matters into our own hands but rather persevere; *Perseverance is the steadfastness in pursuing a goal despite the challenges or even when faced with obstacles.* James 1:4 - *"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* Romans 5:3-4 - *"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."*
3. **Study Scriptures, Memorize, Meditate and live it: Joshua 1:8** (NLT) *"Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. Lamentations 3:25–26: "The LORD is good to those who wait for him...It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.* Commit to daily reminders (scripture memorization, journaling) of His faithfulness.
4. **Seek Community Support:** Don't isolate yourself while you're waiting; David was never alone, he surrounded himself with more than 600 men that stood by him and Jonathan that believed in him.
5. **Living a life of Trust, Obedience and Absolute surrender to God:** Many people have a strong desire to control their circumstances. Waiting requires surrendering that control. if we place our hope in the Lord, He will renew our strength. We must remember that our strength comes from Him, and waiting in faith is an act of trust.
Isaiah 55:8-9 *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* Isaiah 40:31 - *"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." "Blessings after blessings comes to those who love and trust the Lord...." Ps.40:4 9TPT)*

Conclusion:

What are you waiting for? Are you waiting for a prayer to be answered, a decision to be made, or a promise to be fulfilled? Let us commit to waiting on the Lord together, supporting one another in faith and prayer. As we navigate our own periods of waiting, let us remember David's example of restraint, respect, and reliance on God.