

Trusting God's Justice Instead of Taking Matters Into Our Own Hands

Once again, the **Ziphites** betrayed David, revealing his location to **King Saul** in hopes of gaining favor. Saul, who had previously promised to leave David alone, **broke his word** and set out with **3,000 men** to capture him in the **wilderness of Ziph**.

David, however, was not an easy target. He had spies watching Saul's every move and soon discovered exactly where Saul was camped. That night, David **saw an opportunity**—Saul and his army had fallen into a **deep sleep**, and David could sneak into the camp unnoticed.

David turned to **Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai** and said, *"Who will go with me into Saul's camp?"*

Abishai responded, *"I'll go!"*

Together, **David and Abishai** crept into Saul's camp and found the king **asleep**, with his **spear stuck into the ground beside him** and **Abner, his commander, sleeping nearby**.

Abishai **saw this as a God-given moment** and whispered to David, *"God has delivered your enemy into your hands! Let me take his spear and run him through. I won't even need to strike twice!"*

David's Response: Trusting God Instead of Taking Revenge

David **refused**.

"Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? The Lord Himself will strike him down when the time is right—whether by natural death or in battle. But I refuse to be the one to kill him."

Instead, David **took Saul's spear and water jug** and quietly slipped away. No one in the camp woke up because **God had put them into a deep sleep**.

Once at a **safe distance**, David **shouted back to Saul's army** and addressed Abner, the king's bodyguard:

"Abner! Aren't you supposed to be protecting your king? Someone came to kill him, and you didn't even notice! You should be put to death for failing your duty. Look around! Where is the king's spear and water jug?"

Saul Awakens and Acknowledges His Mistakes (Again)

Saul recognized David's voice and called out, *"Is that you, my son David?"*

David responded, *"Yes, my lord, the king. Why do you continue to hunt me down? What have I done wrong? If God has stirred you against me, let's settle it with an offering. But if this is the work of others who have poisoned your mind against me, may they be cursed!"*

Saul, once again **overcome with emotion**, admitted, *"I have sinned. Come back, my son David. I will not harm you again, because you have valued my life today. I have acted foolishly and made a great mistake."*

David did **not** return with Saul—he knew better than to trust his words. Instead, he held up Saul’s spear and said,

"Let one of your men come and get this. May the Lord reward each of us for our faithfulness. Today, God gave me the chance to take your life, but I refused. Just as I valued your life, may God value mine and deliver me from all my troubles."

Saul responded, *"Bless you, David. You will do great things and surely prevail."*

Then **David and Saul parted ways—one walking in faith, the other in regret.**

Personal Application: What Can We Learn?

1. Leave Justice in God’s Hands

David had the perfect chance to **eliminate his enemy**. He had the skill, the motive, and the encouragement from others. But David understood something deeper: **revenge belongs to God, not us.**

- **Romans 12:19** – *"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."*
- **Application:** Are you **holding onto bitterness** against someone who has wronged you? Do you **trust God’s justice**, or do you feel the need to take matters into your own hands?

2. Your Character is Defined by How You Respond to Injustice

David could have acted out of **anger, pride, or self-defense**, but instead, he acted with **self-control and wisdom**. He valued his **character** over his **circumstances**.

- **Proverbs 16:32** – *"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."*
- **Application:** When people mistreat you, do you react in **anger and retaliation**, or do you trust God with the situation?

3. God’s Timing is Better Than Ours

David knew that **God had already promised him the throne**. He didn’t need to **force the promise** to happen—God would fulfill it in His **perfect time**.

- **Psalms 37:7** – *"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way."*
- **Application:** Are you waiting on **God’s promises** or trying to **force things** in your own strength?

4. Apologies Without Change Are Meaningless

Saul **confessed his sin** and admitted he had **acted foolishly**, but he never **truly repented**. His words were **empty** because his actions didn’t change.

- **2 Corinthians 7:10** – *"For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."*
- **Application:** Do you **say you're sorry** but keep repeating the same behavior? **True repentance** is turning away from sin, not just admitting it.

5. Not Everyone Who Says They've Changed Can Be Trusted

David had heard **Saul's apologies before**, but he **did not return with him**. He knew that **words without actions mean nothing**.

- **Matthew 7:16** – *"You will know them by their fruits."*
- **Application:** Have you been hurt by someone who keeps making **empty promises**? It's okay to **forgive**, but it's also wise to **set boundaries**.

Final Challenge

- Are you struggling with **bitterness or revenge**?
- Are you **waiting on God's timing** instead of forcing things?
- Are you **truly repentant** when you sin, or do you just feel guilty?
- Do you **set healthy boundaries** with people who repeatedly let you down?

David's story reminds us that **true strength is found in self-control, patience, and trust in God's justice**. Instead of taking **shortcuts or revenge**, we must **honor God in every situation and trust that He will bring justice in His time**.