

"Returning Good for Evil"

1 Samuel 24

Introduction: A Moment of Truth (24:1-7); Reasons behind Actions (24:8-21) A Temporary Truce (24:22).

Moment of Truth - 1 Samuel 24:1-7

Precepts: The best part is that David immediately turns to his men and makes it a very teachable moment; confessing that he made less than the best choice. He did not return good for evil; he returned something less.

Precept: When the moment of truth comes we often find ourselves in the company of various opinions and one of those opinions is the loudest.

Reasons behind Actions - 1 Samuel 24:8-21 - First, David explains his actions to Saul (24:8-15). Then Saul explains his actions to David - (24:16-21).

First, it appears that Saul is repentant as "*God put Saul in David's hands*" (24:17-18).

Second, Saul blesses David (24:19) and includes a request (24:20-21) to protect his family, its name and the house of his father.

Temporary Truce - 1 Samuel 24:22

Summary: When someone is compelled to see the error of their way should I trust them? (Ex: 'Trust but Verify')

Thoughts on Repentance

True repentance involves the whole man. When God calls me to repent he is first challenging my thinking. Once I know that my thinking is wrong, I need to listen to the Spirit of God and then change directions which David nearly did. When I return good for evil I am obeying God; anything less is disobedience and more work is needed.

Conclusion: The term "cut off, torn off" is throughout 1 Samuel; (1 Samuel 15:27; 20:15; 24:4b). Was this a moment when David symbolically laid claim to the throne of Israel? God would have to do that and it would be important for David to patiently wait on the Lord for that gift. All good things come to them that wait upon the Lord.

David's desire was that he and the King get along, and that is David's heart; he wanted to be fully reconciled to Saul, his father-in-law and king. The person who stood in the way was Saul. Make reconciliation a passionate pursuit as a child of God; it was Jesus' passionate pursuit for each of us.

David's righteous actions called up out of Saul the truth that he knew in his heart. So, in line with Jonathan's request Saul asks that he not be cut off. The truth of this moment should remind us of 1 Peter 2:22-23. In some small way David is a type of Christ.

David's character was developing and that involved his conscience. In chapter 23 the Hebrew word for "hand" occurs 9 times and 11 more in chapter 24 and points to how we use power that is momentarily in our hand. David had to learn to restrain his hand; restraint is a characteristic of a man after God's own heart.