

1 SAMUEL 24; April 8; David Spares Saul in the Cave

ANALYSIS:

1. Where were David and his men when Saul unknowingly came near but David did him no harm? _____

2. What did David do with the result that his heart smote him?

3. What respectful terms did David use to address Saul, and by what action did he honor him? _____

4. What did David ask the LORD to do respecting himself and Saul?

5. Saul admitted he knew David would follow him as king, and asked David to swear to what agreement? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

After leaving the cave David pleads with Saul not to listen to slanderers. David argues that by him sparing Saul he has proven that he has no evil intention toward him. He likens King Saul with an army chasing one man as someone going after a dead dog or a flea. David asks the LORD to actively judge between himself and Saul and avenge himself of Saul. This mild and controlled appeal results in Saul acknowledging David's righteousness and speaking words of blessing on David as they part peaceably.

Do you cultivate the habit of giving a soft answer when facing contention? "By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone" Pro 25:15. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" Pro 15:1.

When Saul wept (v 16), after listening to David's passionate appeal, we would hope that in his heart he truly respected David and would no longer seek his destruction. But in later chapters Saul again hunts David. Words of reconciliation hold meaning only when they are supported by good deeds. What could Saul have done to prove he was dropping his case against David?

HELP:

1. In a cave in the wilderness of En-gedi (vs 1-6).
2. David cut off a piece of Saul's robe or skirt (vs 4-5).
3. My lord, the king (v 8). My father (v 11). David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself (v 8).
4. The LORD judge between me and thee (vs 12, 15).
5. Saul asked David to swear (promise) that he would not cut off Saul's house to destroy his name out of his father's house (v 21).