

**Recap of 8/24/25 message by Pastor Joe Ricchuiti
("Do Not Be Overcome by Evil") 1 Samuel 24:1-22:**

1. The first major lesson of 1 Samuel 24 concerns using circumstances to determine God's will. David had Saul in his grasp. Saul had left the safety of his 3,000-man bodyguard to go into a cave to relieve himself. David and his 600 men were hiding deeper in the cave. David could have killed Saul; he was so close. David's men interpreted Saul's vulnerability as God's delivering Saul into David's hands. David could kill Saul and end his fugitive status and take the throne (which was rightfully his). God was using circumstances to direct David...or was he? Not according to David. God was training him and testing him but not directing him by these circumstances. Yet today so many Christians make decisions about their futures based on circumstances. We should not put our trust in or plan our future on circumstances alone. They are just as likely to lead us astray. We must consider, not just circumstances but also the Word of God, the counsel of other growing believers, and knowing God (that is, regular time with Him).

-The situation (Chapter 24) provides the reader a classic example of how different people can look at the same situation and come to totally different conclusions about the role God had in it." (Chafin)

- "The fugitive years were some of the most important to David spiritually. Out of the painful experiences recorded in these chapters came some of David's most beautiful psalms." (Richards)

2. The second major lesson of this chapter is the importance of foregoing revenge and in humility seeking peace, trusting God's timing.

When we are tempted to take revenge upon those who have hurt us or misused us, we must:

-realize that because we live in a fallen world, we will be mistreated.

-realize that though seeking revenge seems satisfying, in the end it will destroy us and separate us from the close fellowship with God we desire.

-respond with mercy and not revenge, leaving room for God to deal with the other person or situation. respond with mercy, by praying for that person, returning blessing for insult, and by loving the person.

-realize that this reaction will only take place as we live by faith, it is not our natural inclination.