

The Life of Saul Mercifully Spared by David: Lessons on Honouring God's Anointed 1 Samuel 24:01–07

1. *David's respect for the office of king: A lesson on the need to honour God's anointed leader*

- a. David's hideout was discovered by Saul
 - 1) He mobilized a force of 3000 soldiers: Began searching near the inaccessible Rocks of the Wild Goats
 - 2) He entered a cave near the sheep pens to attend to his needs
- b. David and his men were hiding far back in the very same cave
- c. David's men suggested this was of God: He should seize the moment, kill Saul
- d. David crept up and cut off only a corner of Saul's robe
- e. David's conscience bothered him
 - 1) The reason:
He had shown disrespect to his master or ruler, the LORD's anointed
 - 2) The result:
David rebuked his men and stopped them from killing Saul

- 1 After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi."
- 2 So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Craggs of the Wild Goats.
- 3 He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave.
- 4 The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.' " Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.
- 5 Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.
- 6 He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD."
- 7 With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.