

## *1 Samuel 24*

In this remarkable incident, David was given a golden opportunity to slay his chief enemy, fleshly King Saul. Twice Saul had attempted to run David through with a spear, but apparently his aim was faulty (*1 Sam. 18:10-11; 19:10*). Motivated by jealousy, anger and hatred, Saul determined to pursue and murder David from that time forth.



Finally, David had a chance to put an end to all this persecution when Saul came close to David in a cave unawares. If David had acted according to feelings, he would have quickly ended Saul's life. Yet David acted on higher principles. He showed love to his enemy and did good to the one who hated and persecuted him (*Matt. 5:44*). He recognized God's sovereignty, knowing that Saul, in spite of his wickedness, was the LORD's anointed king, and that God would take care of Saul in His time and in His way. God is the One who sets up kings and removes them (*Dan. 2:21*). As the result of David's undeserved kindness to Saul, it became obvious to everyone, including Saul, who was righteous and who was wicked (*1 Sam. 24:17-19*). Later, David had another opportunity to slay Saul but again refused (*1 Sam. 26*).

One of my roommates at seminary was a young man named Paul. His father had been ruthlessly murdered on the African mission field when Paul was young. Paul's great desire was to give his life to be a missionary to the very people who had killed his father, a beautiful example of overcoming evil with good. As it turned out, it was not God's choice to send him back to the very place where his father had labored, so Paul faithfully served the Lord on another mission field. Revenge found no place in this man's heart because it was filled with the love of Christ.

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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