

# HEART OF DAVID

## Drawing Strength from God

### *Waiting Patiently in Hope*

#### TAKEAWAY:

Each of us knows the troubles of life. We may even feel trapped by our troubles. But God is not stuck in troubles but is working through them and beyond them. We are invited to learn how to wait in patient hope in a God who hears our cries.

#### 1 Samuel 24 (NAS)

Now when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, it was reported to him, saying, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to search for David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Mountain Goats. And he came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave. Then David's men said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold; I am about to hand your enemy over to you, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.'" Then David got up and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly. But it came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe. So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the Lord that I would do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to reach out with my hand against him, since he is the Lord's anointed." And David rebuked his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul got up, left the cave, and went on his way.

Afterward, however, David got up and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself. And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David is seeking to harm you'? Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the Lord had handed you over to me today in the cave, and someone said to kill you, but I spared you; and I said, 'I will not reach out with my hand against my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed.' So, my father, look! Indeed, look at the edge of your robe in my hand! For by the fact that I cut off the edge of your robe but did not kill you, know and understand that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, and I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life, to take it. May the Lord judge between you and me, and may the Lord take vengeance on you for me; but my hand shall not be against you. As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness'; but my hand shall not be against you. After whom has the king of Israel gone out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog, a single flea? May the Lord therefore be judge and decide between you and me; and may He see and plead my cause and save me from your hand."

When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul raised his voice and wept. And he said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt maliciously with you. You have declared today that you have done good to me, that the Lord handed me over to you and yet you did not kill me. Though if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away unharmed? May the Lord therefore reward you with good in return for what you have done to me this day. Now, behold, I know that you will certainly be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. So now swear to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not eliminate my name from my father's household." And David swore an oath to Saul. Then Saul went to his home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

**David did not kill Saul when he had the opportunity and when it seemed like God had made it possible. Instead, he did what was right, cried out to God, and continued to wait in expectant hope. Wow!**

Psalm 142 (ESV)

A Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer.

With my voice I cry out to the LORD;  
with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.  
I pour out my complaint before him;  
I tell my trouble before him.

When my spirit faints within me,  
you know my way!  
In the path where I walk  
they have hidden a trap for me.  
Look to the right and see:  
there is none who takes notice of me;  
no refuge remains to me;  
no one cares for my soul.

I cry to you, O LORD;  
I say, "You are my refuge,  
my portion in the land of the living."  
Attend to my cry,  
for I am brought very low!  
Deliver me from my persecutors,  
for they are too strong for me!  
Bring me out of prison,  
that I may give thanks to your name!  
The righteous will surround me,  
for you will deal bountifully with me.

1 Corinthians 7:17-28 (NLT) Each of you should continue to live in whatever situation the Lord has placed you, and remain as you were when God first called you. This is my rule for all the churches. ...If you have a wife, do not seek to end the marriage. If you do not have a wife, do not seek to get married.

But if you do get married, it is not a sin. And if a young woman gets married, it is not a sin. However, those who get married at this time will have troubles, and I am trying to spare you those problems.

David's heart on waiting:

Psalm 5:3 In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Psalm 37:7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Psalm 38:15 LORD, I wait for you; you will answer, Lord my God.

O my soul:

Don't take what you can get, but wait for what God will give.

Don't do what you can get away with, but do what honors God.

Don't take what God has not given you, but receive what He gives you with thanks.

Do not take justice in your own hands, but wait for God's judgment and deliverance.

O my soul:

When you don't know how to move forward, stand with God where you are.

Don't let yourself lose heart, but pour your heart out to God.

Don't try to force God's hand, but wait for His plan.

Don't try to rush the things of God, but rest in His presence in the current moment.

O my soul:

Do not despair in your trouble, but take heart that God overcomes.

Do not lose hope in the darkness, but look towards the dawn.

In a dry and parched land, remember the living water.

When life is hard, stay the course, waiting patiently in hope for God's goodness.

O my soul:

Be faithful to the place you are in, knowing that life is full of changes.

This is where God has you, at least for now, give yourself to what is before you, knowing that God is here.

Do not panic, seek God and He will provide for all that you need.

Your place in life is good, choose to thrive within its boundary lines, blooming where you are planted.