

CHASING AFTER GOD





- Close to Dead Sea
- Mountainous, rugged
- Dry region
- Filled with caves and hiding places



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- EnGedi means Spring of the Wild Goats
- Home of the ibex











CHASING AFTER GOD



Message #8

Responding to Haters (1 Samuel 24 & 26)

1 SAMUEL 24

- 1 Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Take note! David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi."
- 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

1 SAMUEL 24

3 So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)

1 SAMUEL 24

4 Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

5 Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.

1 SAMUEL 24

6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."

7 So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

1 SAMUEL 24

8 David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down.

9 And David said to Saul: "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Indeed David seeks your harm'?"

1 SAMUEL 24

10 "Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

1 SAMUEL 24

11 "Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it.

1 SAMUEL 24

12 "Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you.

16 So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

1 SAMUEL 24

20 "And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.

21 "Therefore swear now to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house."

1 SAMUEL 24

22 So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

(NKJV)

1 SAMUEL 26

5 So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Now Saul lay within the camp, with the people encamped all around him.

1 SAMUEL 26

6 Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother of Joab, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you."

1 SAMUEL 26

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him.

1 SAMUEL 26

8 Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

1 SAMUEL 26

9 And David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?"

10 David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.

1 SAMUEL 26

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw it or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

1 SAMUEL 26

13 Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance being between them.

14 And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Do you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered and said, "Who are you, calling out to the king?"

1 SAMUEL 26

15 So David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king.

1 SAMUEL 26

16 "This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jug of water that was by his head."

1 SAMUEL 26

17 Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is that your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king."

18 And he said, "Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand?"

1 SAMUEL 26

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly."

22 And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it."

1 SAMUEL 26

23 "May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed.

1 SAMUEL 26

24 "And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the LORD, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation."

1 SAMUEL 26

25 Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail." So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

(NKJV)

THE QUESTION

If you had the power to destroy your haters or to hurt those who hurt you, would you do it?

**David shows us how to handle our haters.
Counter-intuitive, Counter-cultural & Challenging**

Responding to Haters

The Rage

The Restraint

The Redeemer

The Rage

Saul's Rage

- David's nightmare
- Nearly a dozen attempts
- 3,000 soldiers this time



The Rage

David's Rage

- Do you think David had some anger issues thru all this?
- His anger was justified
- His pain was real
- His loss was catastrophic

Isn't it something when someone else's sin becomes your test.

The Rage

Two Responses: Saul & David

Saul

Madder

Darker

Further

Stubborn

More Deceived

David

Seeking

Trying

Closer to God

Repentant

Tender

The Rage

David's Rage

Rage has to be poured out to God

Or else

**You are going to pour it out on
somebody.**

**Be honest,
instead of religious.**

The Rage

David's Rage

Remember some of David's prayers?

- **Ps 55:15 - Let death seize them; Let them go down alive into hell**
- **Ps 58:6 - Break their teeth in their mouth, O God!**
- **Ps 59:13 - Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be**

The Rage

Pray for You

Let the good Lord do his job
And you just pray for them

I pray your brakes go out running down a hill
I pray a flower pot falls from a window sill
And knocks you in the head like I'd like to
I pray your birthday comes and nobody calls
I pray your flying high when your engine stalls
I pray all your dreams never come true
Just know wherever you are
Honey, I pray for you

THE OPPORTUNITY

Back to our question

David gets an opportunity twice.

Wisdom is needed.

Is this an answer to prayer, a test from the LORD or a temptation from the enemy.

The Restraint

Restraint

=

**When you could,
but you don't**

The Restraint

On 2 Occasions

1 Sam 24 – in the cave

(cut a piece of Saul's robe)

David even felt bad about that (vs 5)

1 Sam 26 – in Saul's camp

(took Saul's spear & water bottle)

The Restraint

Peer Pressure

On top of all this, David's friends are urging him to kill Saul.

**How much more difficult is it now?
Which voice will you follow?**

David still says NO

Wisdom Point

- Did you notice how David honored Saul, but he still maintained boundaries?
 - Saul had tears & asked David to come home.
 - David said no thanks
- It is possible to forgive, to love and to honor, but still maintain boundaries?

The Restraint

How?

To have restraint like this, you have to have something on the inside of you that is stronger than “rage” and “revenge”.

Now, let's look at the what has to be in a person to show such restraint.

Have the “fear of the LORD”

1

Beginning of wisdom

**Deep honor & respect
for the LORD**

Have the “fear of the LORD”

1

In these Two Stories

**7x David calls Saul “the LORD’s
anoointed”**

**Some 15x David shows respect to
Saul with words or actions**

Have the “fear of the LORD”

1

David speaks:

- (1 Sam 26:9) "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?"
- (1 Sam 26:11) "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed."

Don't repay evil for evil.

- When you repay evil for evil, the evil wins & grows.
- And the evil enters into you.
- Guard your heart

2

Don't repay evil for evil.

2

**A person's actions
prove their character.**

**Your response will
prove your character.**

Trust God with the outcome.

3

David says,

- "May the Lord judge between you & me."
- "May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness"

Trust that God sees, God knows, and God will handle it in His time, in His way.

Be filled with the Spirit of God.

4

This is when a person comes under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

This is when you begin to live in God's strength and not your own.

Be filled with the Spirit of God.

4

The Difference Maker:

(1 Sam 16:13) at the time of his call to be King: “the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward”

Be filled with the Spirit of God.

4

self-control

Fruit of the Spirit

You need supernatural help for this.

Jesus taught us to “Ask” for the Holy Spirit to fill us.

Responding to Haters

The Rage

The Restraint

The Redeemer

- Jesus has something to teach us about responding to haters.

Jesus, Matthew 5:43-48

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Jesus, Matthew 5:43-48

45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Jesus, Matthew 5:43-48

47 "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

(NKJV)

Enemy Love

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners (enemies of God) Christ died for us.

Enemy Love is how salvation came to us.

LORD help us...

**The Fear of the LORD
Don't repay evil for evil.
Trust God with the outcome.
Be Filled with the Spirit**

Enemy Love

Numbers 6:24-26

24 "The LORD bless you and keep you;

25 The LORD make His face shine upon
you, and be gracious to you;

26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon
you, and give you peace."