### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 24

1Then, after Saul returned from driving away the Philistines, he heard that David was in the EnGedi Desert. 2So he selected 3,000 of the best soldiers in all IsraEl and went to look for David along the edge of the Trap of the Wild Goats.  
  
3Then when their march was blocked by herds and flocks on the road, Saul stopped and entered a cave to ‘prepare himself’ [possibly a euphemism for emptying his bowels]. Well, this just happened to be the same cave that David and his men were hiding in!  
  
4Well at that, David’s men said to him:  
  
 ‘Look! This is the day that Jehovah spoke to you about when He said:  
  
 ‘I’ll give your enemy into your hands and you may deal with him in any way that you wish.’  
  
So then, David crept up to Saul and quietly cut the fringe off his robe... 5But afterward, David’s heart was bothered by the fact that he’d done this.  
  
6And he said to his men:  
  
 ‘Jehovah certainly didn’t mean for me to do such a thing to my lord. I should never have raised a hand against him, because he truly is the anointed of Jehovah.’  
  
7And after David said this, he persuaded his men not to get up and kill Saul.  
  
Well, after Saul got up and left the cave, 8David got up and followed him outside... And David shouted after Saul, saying:  
  
 ‘O my Lord! O king!’  
  
And when Saul looked back, David bowed to him with his face to the ground, 9saying to Saul:  
  
 ‘Why do you believe people when they tell you that David wants to kill you?  
  
 10‘Look! Today you can see with your own eyes how Jehovah gave you into my hands, and I didn’t want to kill you… I spared you!  
  
 ‘For I said, ‘I won’t lift a hand against my lord, because he’s the anointed of Jehovah!’  
  
 11‘Look here, my father; I’m holding the fringe of your robe in my hand… [I got so close] that I could remove it, and yet I didn’t kill you! Therefore, you should know that I don’t wish you any evil, nor am I disrespectful or rebellious!  
  
 ‘I haven’t sinned against you… Yet, you’re still determined to take my life!  
  
 12‘So may Jehovah judge between you and me, and may He find me righteous when it comes to you, because He knows that I wouldn’t lift a hand against you.  
  
 13‘As the [song] goes:  
  
 ‘There’s sin in the elder’s lawless ways,  
 For against you, I’ve not raised a hand.’  
  
 14‘So, who are you chasing, O king of IsraEl?  
  
 ‘Are you pursuing the dead or chasing a flea?  
  
 15‘May Jehovah be the judge… May He serve as the judge between me and you! Yes, may Jehovah look down and judge my case, and save me from your hands.’  
  
  
16Well, after David said this to Saul, Saul asked:  
  
 ‘Is that the voice of my child David?’  
  
Then he broke into tears, 17and he said to David:  
  
 ‘You’re a better man than I, because you repaid the bad things I’ve done to you with good things... 18Then you [took the time to] tell me about these good things, and of how Jehovah gave me into your hands, but you didn’t kill me.  
  
 19‘For what other man, if he were to find his enemy vulnerable, would be good enough to send him away?  
  
 ‘So, may Jehovah repay the goodness that you’ve shown today!  
  
 20‘And now I know that you’re going to become the king and that you’ll rule over the kingdom of IsraEl! 21So [please] swear an oath to me by Jehovah, that you won’t destroy me or my offspring, and that you’ll never remove my name from the house of my father.’  
  
22So David swore by an oath to Saul, and then Saul went back home, while David and his men went up into the narrows of MesSara.