

THE PURSUIT

David's Heart for God

Responding to Hurtful Relationships I Samuel 18, 24

Today, we examine the relationship between King Saul and David. Saul was attacking David in many different ways. David's amazing response to this behavior is part of the reason God said David was a man after His own heart. We all need to be part of this Pursuit.

The Hurtful Actions We May Experience--Saul. I Samuel 18

Rooted in a heart of pride. Vs. 6-9

Reflected in his behavior:

- Vs. 8 Anger, resentment, jealousy, strife
- Vs. 9 Suspicion, lack of trust, respect, undermining
- Vs. 10, 11 Anger, rage, physical and emotional attack, separation
- Vs. 12 Work out of atmosphere of fear and intimidation
- Vs. 13, 17-19 Manipulation, controlling, deceit, unfulfilled promises
- Vs. 15 Feeling of "dread" means:

Are these characteristics of your relationships or behaviors? Are you a "Saul" to another person?

The Response of One "after God's own heart"-- David. I Samuel 24

To be a man or woman after God's own heart, here is David's godly response:

- Resist the temptation for revenge or a hateful response. Vs. 3-7

Reasons we may find for revenge can include:

To help your heart, read Proverbs 15:1; 16:32; 24:29; Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:17-21

- View "Saul" from God's perspective. Vs. 6, 8, 10.
Psalm 37, use the "digging deeper" to help your perspective.
- Approach "Saul" with an attitude of humility and brokenness. Vs. 8
No demands or anger.
- Seek the truth in love and grace to find peace. Vs. 9-11
 - Gentle Questions. Vs. 9
 - Kind acts of grace. Vs. 10
 - Acknowledge the truth. Vs. 11

- Trust in God's Word and Will for the final outcome. Vs. 12-15

I Corinthians 6 Believers avoid secular legal system
II Corinthians 2:5-11; Colossians 3:12-17 Seek forgiveness

- Trust in "Saul" must be earned over time. Vs. 22; I Samuel 26:25

Those who have people like Saul in their lives know how hard it is to respond as David did. To better prepare your heart, use Psalm 37, written by David, which reflects him as a man after God's own heart in response to Saul. Read this rich psalm, reflect on your own heart and respond by answering the following questions from some of the verses of this psalm.

Vs. 1 Is your heart anxious and fearful?
Stop now and ask God that He will give you a heart of peace as you study this psalm. Ask that He will reassure your heart of His control, strength and power for your situation.

Vs. 2 How strong is your "Saul" in God's eyes?
How frail and weak should your view be of them since they are like the grass?

Vs. 3-6 How should you focus on the Lord?
What does He ask you to do?
What promise does He make to you when you live this way?
You may need others to help you keep this perspective, such as a small group or being disciplined by another person.

Vs. 7 Are you patiently waiting on the Lord to work in His time and way?
Stop and pray now that He would give your heart patience—God knows about your situation and does not want you to worry.

Vs. 8, 9 Have you been expressing any anger and vengeful behavior?
If so, confess that now and ask for God's cleansing and peace to calm your heart and change your attitude.

Vs. 10, 11 What attitude does the Lord ask from you in vs. 11?
Confess any pride or selfish motives in your heart.

Vs. 27 Are any of your deeds "*evil*" according to God's standards?
Will you commit now to do "*good*" to others? What "*good*" things should you do?
Ask God for the power to make that happen right now.

Vs. 28 Ask for God's power to bring about His ultimate justice and for Him to protect you in this matter.
Are you trusting God for the final outcome of your situation?

Vs. 39, 40 Prayerfully ask for the Lord's strength and ultimate deliverance as you trust in Him and have a heart after the Lord.



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1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.

2 For they will wither quickly like the grass and fade like the green herb.

**3 Trust in the Lord and do good;
Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.**
**4 Delight yourself in the Lord;
and He will give you the desires of your heart.**
**5 Commit your way to the Lord,
trust also in Him, and He will do it.**
**6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the
light and your judgment as the noonday.**

**7 Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him;
Do not fret because of him who prospers in his
way, because of the man who carries out
wicked schemes.**

**8 Cease from anger and forsake wrath;
do not fret; it leads only to evildoing.**
**9 For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait
for the Lord, they will inherit the land.**

**10 Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no
more; and you will look carefully for his place
and he will not be there.**
**11 But the humble will inherit the land and will
delight themselves in abundant prosperity.**

**27 Depart from evil and do good, so you will abide
forever.**

**28 For the Lord loves justice and does not forsake
His godly ones; they are preserved forever,
But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.**

**39 But the salvation of the righteous is from the
Lord; He is their strength in time of trouble.**
**40 The Lord helps them and delivers them;
He delivers them from the wicked and saves
them, because they take refuge in Him.**