

**David: The Early Years
Life's Most Subtle Temptation
1 Samuel 23-24**

1 Samuel 23:14 (NKJV) And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

1 Samuel 23:8 (NKJV) Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

1 Samuel 23:29 (NKJV) Then David went up from there and dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi.

- I. A Surprising Situation - 1 Samuel 24:1-4**
 - A. Openness of the Bible**
 - B. Opportunity for Revenge**

- II. A Subtle Temptation - 1 Samuel 24:4**
 - A. Conviction of a Conscience - 1 Samuel 24:5-6**
 - B. Contend for Correct Principles - 1 Samuel 24:7**
 - C. Confidence in God - Proverbs 16:7; 1 Samuel 24:8**

- III. A Strange Conversation**
 - A. Declares the Truth - 1 Samuel 24:9**
 - B. Deals with the Offender - 1 Samuel 24:10-11**
 - C. Depends on God - 1 Samuel 24:12; 16-22**

- IV. Practical Application**
 - A. Since Man is Depraved, Expect to Be Mistreated**
 - B. Since Mistreatments are Inevitable, Anticipate Feelings of Revenge**
 - C. Since the Desire for Revenge is Predictable, Refuse to Fight in the Flesh**

Romans 12:18-21 (NKJV) If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. Therefore "IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM; IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.