

## 9. Later Fugitive Years & Sparing Saul

(1 Samuel 24–26)

### 3.8 David Spares Saul the First Time (1 Samuel 24)

#### 3.8.1 Saul pursues David to Engedi (1 Samuel 24:1-7)

- Later in 2 Samuel 16:8, Shimei will charge David with the “blood guilt” of Saul’s house, implying that he had usurped the Kingdom. These chapters serve to show that this was not true.
- 24:4 - “here is the day the LORD said to you...” there is no other mention of this prophecy. It could be a false prophecy or one that was misapplied to Saul. Clearly, in the following chapters, David does not think the LORD intends for him to kill Saul.
- 24:5 - David’s heart struck him ...  
On cutting Saul’s Robe:  
“This act was far from meaningless because David’s confiscation of a portion of the royal robe signified the transfer of power from the house of Saul to the house of David. Furthermore, by removing the corner of the robe, David made Saul’s robe to be in a state of noncompliance with Torah requirements (cf. Num 15:38–39; Deut 22:12); thus, Saul’s most obvious symbol of kingship was made unwearable. In essence, David had symbolically invalidated Saul’s claim to kingship.” [Robert D. Bergen, 1, 2 Samuel, 239]

#### 3.8.2 David reveals his good intentions to Saul (1 Samuel 24:8-15)

- This section contains the longest recorded quotes by both David and Saul.
- 24:8 - David honors Saul in both address and posture.
- 24:14 - This is poetry: “ After whom goes forth Israel’s king? / After whom are you seeking? / After a lifeless dog? / After a single flea?  
*David is humbly trying to put things in perspective for Saul.*

#### 3.8.3 Saul responds favorably to David (1 Samuel 24:16-22)

- This is the longest recorded speech of Saul in the book.
- 24:20 - !!! Saul confesses that he KNOWS David will be King.

### 3.9 **David Deals with Nabal and Abigail** (1 Samuel 25)

#### 3.9.1 **The death of Samuel is mentions (25:1a)**

#### 3.9.2 **David asks Nabal for help (1 Samuel 25:1b-8)**

- **Nabal** means “fool” - he is described as “hard and evil/mean” (25:3), “a worthless man who no one can reason with” (25:17), Abigail says that he is as his name describes (25:25). As a **Calebite** he is one of David’s kinsmen.
- **Abigail** means “my father is joy” or “my father’s joy”

#### 3.9.3 **Nabal rejects David who prepares to retaliate (1 Samuel 25:9-13)**

- David and his men had been protecting Nabal’s flocks (25:15, 16, 21) so his refusal to help is not only an insult but a failure to honor David’s help.

#### 3.9.4 **A servant reports to Abigail (1 Samuel 25:14-17)**

#### 3.9.5 **Abigail makes plans and pleads with David who relents (1 Samuel 25:18-35)**

- Abigail’s speech is the longest of a woman in the Hebrew Scriptures.
- By withholding payment for services, Nabal was not keeping Torah. However, if David avenged himself, that too would be sin. Only the LORD was allowed to avenge the wrong in cases like this (see Lev 19:13-18; Deut 24:15, 32:35). Abigail is keeping David from sin.
- 25:28-31 Abigail recognizes that David will be King. *Referencing “the hollow of a sling” is skillful reference to David’s victory over Goliath!*

#### 3.9.6 **The LORD strikes Nabal down and David takes Abigail as his wife (1 Samuel 25:36-44)**

### 3.10 **David Spares Saul a Second Time** (1 Samuel 26)

#### 3.10.1 **Saul pursues David in Ziph (1 Samuel 26:1-5)**

#### 3.10.2 **David takes Saul’s spear and water jar (1 Samuel 26:6-12)**

#### 3.10.3 **David reveals himself to Saul again (1 Samuel 26:13-20)**

#### 3.10.4 **Saul responds favorable to David again (1 Samuel 26:21-25)**

- *! These are the last recorded words between David and Saul*