

Guided by 'Right and Just'
in Waiting for God
The King and the People Series

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What We Will Learn

- Guided by “what is right and just”
- In interactions with Saul
- David reminds us of God’s mandate
- Live according to God’s ways
- By doing what is right and just
- So God will fulfill his promise
- Genesis 18:18–19
- 1 Samuel 24 & 26

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The Mandate

- God’s declaration regarding Abraham
- Understands what is “right and just”
- Lives according to what is “right and just”
- Will raise offspring generations to live according to what is “right and just”
- So that God will fulfill his promise
- God’s purpose as guiding principle for all
- Genesis 18:18–19

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Genesis 18 (NIV)

18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

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Right and Just

- For every specific situation
- Understand meaning of “right and just”
- Respond to situation to uphold meaning of “right and just”
- Example from David-Saul interactions

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David-Saul Relationship

- David revered Saul as God’s anointed
 - Did not want to “lay a hand” on Saul
 - Did not want to get into battle against Saul
 - Revering Saul was “right and just”
- Guiding principle in *waiting for God’s time*
- Live according to the way of God
- By doing “what is right and just”
- Two examples from David-Saul interactions

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Cave of En Gedi

- Tempting opportunity to kill Saul in a cave
- Cut a piece from Saul's robe instead
- Explained he will not kill God's anointed
- Confronted Saul verbally from safe distance
 - He had done nothing wrong to Saul
 - He will not "lay a hand" on Saul
 - God will deliver him from Saul
- 1 Samuel 24:1–15

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1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

1 After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi."

2 So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats.

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1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

3 He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave.

4 The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

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1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

5 Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.

6 He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord."

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1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

7 With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

8 Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.

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1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

9 He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'?"

10 This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed.'

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1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

11 See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life.

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1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

12 May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.

13 As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you.

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1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

14 "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?

15 May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand."

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Desert of Ziph

- Another tempting opportunity to kill Saul
- Trusted associate urged David to take the opportunity based on military strategy
- David declined
- Explained his basis to the associate
- Instructed associate on what to do
- Chose to confront Saul verbally instead
- 1 Samuel 26:1–12

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1 Samuel 26 (NIV)

1 The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, "Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?"

2 So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand select Israelite troops, to search there for David.

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1 Samuel 26 (NIV)

3 Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul had followed him there,

4 he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived.

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1 Samuel 26 (NIV)

5 Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him.

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1 Samuel 26 (NIV)

6 David then asked Ahimelek the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?" "I'll go with you," said Abishai.

7 So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.

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1 Samuel 26 (NIV)

8 Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?"

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1 Samuel 26 (NIV)

10 As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.

11 But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."

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1 Samuel 26 (NIV)

12 So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the Lord had put them into a deep sleep.

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Saul Concedes to David

- David resisted temptation of killing Saul to clear his path to kingship
- But he won concession from Saul
- Saul conceded to David
- In the presence of Israeli witnesses
- 1 Samuel 24:16–17, and 20–22
- 1 Samuel 26:17, 21, and 25

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1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

16 When David finished saying this, Saul asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?" And he wept aloud.

17 "You are more righteous than I," he said. "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly.

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1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

20 I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands.

21 Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."

22 So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

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1 Samuel 26 (NIV)

17 Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is that your voice, David my son?" David replied, "Yes it is, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong."

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1 Samuel 26 (NIV)

25 Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, David my son; you will do great things and surely triumph."

So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

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What We Learned

- David revered Saul as God's anointed
 - Did not want to "lay a hand" on Saul
 - Did not want to get into battle against Saul
- Understood revering Saul was "right and just"
- And was guided by the understanding
- Guiding principle in *waiting for God's time*
- David resisted temptation of killing Saul
- Saul conceded to David publicly

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