

# FIRST SAMUEL

## Lesson 40: Chapter 24:1-7, Trusting God

7 April 2017

**Vss. 1-2** Envy brought Saul to a point where he spent more time chasing David than he did running the kingdom of Israel. Proverbs 14:30 says “**Envy is the rottenness of the bones.**” Saul shows us how envy will eat a person’s life away like cancer so that no amount of earthly wealth or power can satisfy the need to be number one. Don’t waste your life on envy!

Saul is enjoying earthly successes and defeating his enemies in battle. This demonstrates to us that outward success is no proof that a you’re right with God. (1 Tim. 6:5, Psa. 17:4, Lam. 3:24).

---

**Vss. 3-4** As Saul unknowingly enters the cave where David and his men are hiding, David is presented with several opportunities.

1. He can rid the nation of Israel of an apostate leader who has led them away from God.
2. He can ascend to the throne and begin his reign, thereby fulfilling God’s promise.
3. He can rid his family and his followers of all the oppression they’ve been facing.
4. By getting rid of Saul, he would be praised by the people.

Though the end results of murdering Saul are all positive, the means of achieving those results in that cave (murder) would be sinful.

**If you do evil to achieve something good (Rom. 3:8), you have sinned against God.**

- Examples:**
1. Religious people killing in God’s name to establish or protect their religion.
  2. Ministers lying to people to *increase their faith*.
  3. Christians lying to an unsaved person about Jesus, heaven, miracles, the Christian life, etc., to convince the person to receive Christ.
  4. Putting together worldly social events for kids or teens to get them in church.
  5. Lying to your children to keep them safe.

Make sure the steps, the methods, and the means to the end-result are right in the eyes of God, or else God cannot put His stamp of approval on your actions (Num. 20:12), no reward will be received (1 Cor. 3:11-14), and people won’t trust you (Gen. 20:1-13).

---

**Vss. 5-7** The slightest action against Saul awakened David’s conscience and he knew it would be sin to kill Saul in the cave. He would have been grieved in his heart for the rest of his life if he had followed through.

---

## Cross-References:

**Prov. 16:32-33** Saul's appearance in the cave is a good test of David's self-control. As king, he must not only be able to control his anger and rule his spirit, but he must have complete trust in God's promises to punish the wicked.

---

**Rom. 12:17-21** Don't pay back evil for evil. If you take vengeance into your own hands, you can hurt your ministry, your family, or countless other people; believers and unbelievers alike. Trust God to take care of it; He said He would.

---

**1 Pet. 2:19-23** When somebody wrongs you, follow the example of Jesus; take the wrongdoing patiently and commit yourself to God. We are not only responsible for our actions, but also our reactions to those who do us wrong.

---

**Isaiah 28:16** "**He that believeth shall not make haste.**" If God said He would bring judgment to pass, and reward you for doing right, you will patiently wait for God to do what He said He'd do; you won't take matters into your own hands. You'll allow God to right the wrongs.

---

**Psalms 37: 1-11** This is a Psalm of David that shows how he learned to trust completely in the Lord, even in the presence of evildoers who were fighting him. As a result, he waited upon the Lord and didn't stain his own reputation by taking vengeance upon his enemies.

David was received by the people because they saw that he obtained the throne honorably.

David knew that "in a little while" God would cut off the workers of iniquity. We must be patient (**Heb. 10:35-37**). God's promises will all come to pass.

---