



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Psalms Sermon Series

Supports Session 7: God's Deliverance

Sermon Title: "When It Feels Like You're It" (1 Samuel 24)

Connection to Session 7

Psalm 18 describes how God delivered David from the hand of his enemies, chief of whom was King Saul. One particularly relevant episode in David's life that connects with this psalm is found in 1 Samuel 24 when David spared Saul's life. In this narrative, David exhibited righteous behavior toward God and Saul and is thus delivered from Saul's pursuit for a time.

Introduction/Opening

We have all played a game of tag as children. "You're it" is the refrain that let's someone know they have been tagged. It is a continual game of chase and capture. In one season of David's life, he often found himself as the one being chased. After he was chosen to be the king to replace Saul, the former king made it his life's mission to eliminate David through various attempts. In the narrative of 1 Samuel 24, Saul chased David through the wilderness. Through David's righteousness, God delivered him from the hand of Saul.

Outline

1. David in Need of Deliverance (1 Sam. 24:1-3a)

- a. When we meet David and Saul in 1 Samuel 24, David was on the run. Saul had determined to kill him. First Samuel 23 tells us that "Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them" (1 Sam. 23:26), but David hid at En-gedi, a natural spring and oasis in the wilderness.
- b. While we may not find ourselves on the run from our enemies in a literal sense, we may find ourselves being pursued by enemies in other ways. We likely know what it feels like to be treated unjustly. Whether it is through slander, aggression, or jealousy, we may have a small idea of what David felt and experienced.
- c. We must also remember Christians who live in places where they are constantly pursued and persecuted because of their faith.

2. David's Opportunity to Deliver Himself (1 Sam. 24:3b-7)

- a. In a perceived stroke of luck, Saul entered the very cave where David and his men were hiding. David's men wanted him to take the opportunity to deliver himself by killing Saul, even attributing the fortunate circumstances to the Lord (v. 4). However, this meant that David would have to strike "the LORD's anointed" (v. 6). Instead, he cut a corner of Saul's robe.

- b. Pricked in his conscience, David immediately regretted the decision to cut Saul's robe, vowing not to harm him because of his position. We may be in similar situations when we must honor someone in a greater position when they are not worthy of it. Regardless, we should honor those God puts in authority.
- c. When we are treated poorly, our natural reaction is to retaliate. We should not seek to repay evil for evil (1 Thess. 5:15), but we should seek the good of others. Seeking revenge for wrongs committed against us is never the path we should take; vengeance is the Lord's (Rom. 12:19). Sometimes, we may have to hold others back from taking the same course of action (1 Sam. 24:7).
- d. Ultimately, we must leave our deliverance in God's hands. He promises to look after us and knows how to execute justice perfectly. David trusted judgment to God again in 1 Samuel 26:9-10: "Don't destroy him, for who can lift a hand against the LORD's anointed and be innocent?" And David said, "As the LORD lives, the LORD will certainly strike him down: either his day will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish."

3. David's Righteous Appeal (1 Sam. 24:8-15)

- a. In the next scene, David called out to Saul once he has left the cave. David demonstrated honor and humility by kneeling before Saul. He attempted to talk some sense into Saul, implying that those who have instigated Saul's anger toward David were liars (vv. 9-10). David also attested to his righteous behavior, letting Saul live in spite of his attempts to kill David.
- b. David also properly recognized the source of true vengeance and justice, the Lord (v. 12).

4. David Received His Deliverance (1 Sam. 24:16-22)

- a. David's approach made Saul reconsider his actions. Saul even acknowledged the righteousness of David (v. 17). When we approach difficult, unjust situations with humility and confidence in God, we may be surprised at the results. Because David showed mercy to Saul, Saul left him and went home.
- b. Unlike David, Jesus Christ was left to the hands of His captors. He was given up to death for our deliverance. As followers of Jesus, we should be prepared to experience persecution for our faith, as Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:19-21, "For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God. For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps."

Conclusion

When we are treated unjustly, chased and pursued by our enemies, we must fight the urge to seek revenge and retaliate. Jesus left us a perfect example of how to suffer and endure unjust treatment for the sake of our faith. When we need deliverance, we must trust the only One who can grant it—God Himself.

Jesse Welliver is the Senior Pastor of Summit Baptist Church in Loganville, GA. He earned his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. He is married to Rachel, and they have four daughters.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.