



Road Trip

Part 5: Choosing the Right Direction

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David's Opportunity: 1 Samuel 24:1-4

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi."² So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Craggs of the Wild Goats.

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.

This opportunity **looked** like a God thing,
acted like a God thing and
talked like a God thing.

Truths to Learn

- Exercising restraint is a godly virtue.
- circumstances are a terrible way of defining a life direction.

David's Response

A. David weighed this opportunity against four standards:

1. God's Law
2. God's Principles
3. God's Wisdom
4. God's Will

B. What looks like a God thing, feels like a God thing, and is suggested by others to be a God thing is not necessarily a God thing.

C. It's only a God thing if it lines up with all four standards in the order of priority that God placed them.

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1 Samuel 24:5-13

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

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

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

⁸Then 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. ⁹He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'?" ¹⁰This 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 lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD's anointed.' ¹¹See, 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. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. ¹²May 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. ¹³As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you."

Next Steps

Write down the next important decision you face. In making this decision, try to follow David's example and weigh your decision against the four standards in this outline, *in order*.

My next big decision is: _____

If your decision involves finances, it's not too late to join The Whatcom Dream financial course. See details in today's program or online at ctkbellingham.com.

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) In your family now or growing up, who usually makes the decision of which route to take on a road trip?
- 2) What do you think is the most *important* decision you've faced so far in your life? What has been the most *difficult* decision to make? Are they the same?
- 3) David had a dilemma: his circumstance was communicating one direction but his knowledge of God and His Word were communicating a different direction. What needs to be present in your life to keep you from just rolling with the circumstances?
- 4) Have you ever faced a situation that looked, acted and talked like a God thing but in the end turned out not to be a God thing? What did you do and what did you learn?
- 5) God's will is number four on the standards list. Why do you believe most people get stuck trying to make decisions on that level alone and forget to take into account the other two levels?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?