

INTRODUCE

Well, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to 1 Samuel chapter 24.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to 1 Samuel 24,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
 - under every single chair.
 - You'll find 1 Samuel 24 on page **246**.

INTRODUCTION: ROAD TRIP

Last summer I took our family on a road trip to Southern California.

- My daughter, Harper, had never seen the ocean...
 - she'd never even been to a beach...
- so, San Diego was our destination.

That's a 16 hour drive if you drive straight...and we did not drive straight!

And here's how it went.

- Colorado...beautiful.
- Utah...beautiful!
 - But then we hit the little edge of Nevada...
 - and into California.
- And hear me, South-East California is gross, y'all. Sorry...

Now, we took road trips when I was about my daughter's age.

And you know what I did to pass the time during those endless hours?

- NOTHING! There was nothing to do!
- We stared out the window...
 - which wasn't so bad in Colorado and Utah...
 - But once you're in the desert...
 - it's like... "will we ever get there!?!"

That was MY road trip experience as a kid...

But that was NOT what Harper experienced.

- She had an iPad loaded up with movies.
- She had her own Bluetooth headphones
 - so that we didn't have to listen to Frozen repeatedly!
- She had activity books and games.
- At one point, she had my phone playing video games.

And in the middle of this trip, my lovely daughter had the audacity to ask me this question:

- "Are we there yet? How long is this trip gonna take?!?"

And I almost lost my mind!

- I almost became my father.
- I almost had a Tom Martin moment where I said,
 - "When I was a boy..."

But I realized that Harper is living in a world where...

- Boredom...
- Slowness...
- Waiting...
- is almost a sin!

TRANSITION

But I'm calling today's sermon **SLIDE WAITING WORKS**

- I want to talk about waiting...
- because our world has become saturated with the idea...
- that waiting is a bad thing.

Our whole world,

- in an attempt to make things easier,
- and more streamlined,
- and more convenient...

Has bred into us a lack of patience...

that has resulted in a lack of resilience!

But listen to me: WAITING WORKS.

It just works.

So, let's get after it. 1 Samuel 24, starting in verse 1:

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1 SAMUEL 24:1

[1] When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told,
"Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi."

EXPLAIN: CONTEXT

So, let's set the context:

1 Samuel is a historical book in the Old Testament...

covering the establishment of the monarchy of Israel.

- So, the first king of Israel was Saul, who we just read about.
- And the second king of Israel will be David. King David.

And as it stands...

- Saul is still king,
- and David is not yet king.

But because of Saul's blatant disobedience to God's commands...

- God has rejected him as king.
- And anointed David as the future king.

Now, in chapter 17 David courageously killed the giant Philistine Goliath.

- But when Saul sees how Israel loves him...
- and infers that David is destined to replace him...
- he wants him dead.
 - And Saul tries to kill him with his own hand...
 - he literally tries to pin him to the wall...
 - with his spear...
 - three times!

And so, David flees...he is on the run from the king who wants him dead.

- And for many chapters now, that's been the story.
- David running...and Saul hunting.

And that's where we are today.

Saul gets word that David is in Engedi. Verse 2:

1 SAMUEL 24:2-3a

[2] Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. [3] And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself.

EXPLAIN: RELIEVE HIMSELF

Now, pause...

I guess, when you've gotta go you've gotta go...even Bible characters.

- But if you're a bit demented like me, you ask...
- alright...number 1 or number 2?
 - Is no one else asking that?
 - Be real, y'all!

Well, the Hebrew word that is translated *relieve himself*...

- literally means to *cover his feet*.
 - *Saul went in and covered his feet.*
- This is a euphemism.

So, the Bible...

- the infallible,
- holy,
- inspired,
- Word of God...
 - wants YOU to know...
 - that King Saul dropped his drawers.
 - He covered his feet.

Now, why is this important? Is it just potty humor for immature pastors?

No! You see,

- it means that nobody,
 - not even his personal bodyguard,
- would have accompanied him into the cave for this purpose.

So, the king is all alone in the cave going to the bathroom.

- And the guards are outside.
 - "You hear any movement?"
 - "No, but I smell one."
- You know they're saying it!

Hey listen, you can take the man out of youth ministry...

but you can't take youth ministry out of the man.

Ok? So, *Saul went in to relieve himself*...

1 SAMUEL 24:3b

Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave.

- So, Saul just happened to pick
- the very cave that David and his boys are hiding in.

We know Saul didn't know David was there,

- because he never would have gone in there alone
- if he even had an inkling that David was in there.

Verse 4:

1 SAMUEL 24:4

[4] And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

EXPLAIN: DAVID'S THOUGHTS

So, David's men see this and they can't believe what is happening!

- Of all the places to show up...unguarded...vulnerable.
- I mean, "*David, are you seeing this?*"
- *How could you ever doubt that there is a God!*
- *He is handing Saul to you on a porcelain platter!*

So, David arose...and he grabs his knife.

And I wonder what's going on in his mind at that point...

- You see, it has been years
 - since David was picked out of all his brothers,
 - and anointed by Samuel.
- It has been years
 - since David was promoted
 - from tending the sheep in the pasture,
 - to serving Saul in the palace.
- It has been years
 - since David killed Goliath
 - and won the favor of all of Israel.
- And frankly, it has now been years
 - that David has been hunted by Saul.

And in all those years, the message has been the same: NOT YET.

- *"David, not yet.*
- *You're not the king, yet.*
 - *Don't skip in like.*
 - *Don't force it.*
- *Not yet."*

But now...this is the day!

So, **David arose**, and who knows what's going on in David's mind?

But listen, he could justify it all.

- *"I am the NEXT anointed king!*
 - *I'm just taking what's rightfully mine.*
- *And what's more, this is really self-defense.*
 - *The guy has literally been throwing spears at me.*

- *And he's not even doing a good job protecting the country...*
 - *it's actually my civic duty to take Saul out here...*
 - *it'd do a lot of good for the nation.*
 - *I'm a patriot!"*

TRANSITION

So, all this could've been going through David's head...

- But as he sneaks up on Saul...
- something switches...
- because he doesn't kill him.
- He only cuts off a corner of Saul's robe.

Verse 5:

1 SAMUEL 24:5-7

[5] And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. [6] He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed." [7] So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

POINT 1

So, what struck David's heart?

Well, he remembered WHO Saul was.

Saul was **the LORD'S anointed**.

- And who else was the LORD'S anointed?
 - Yeah, David was!

So, that means that Saul has been on a quest to kill **the Lord's anointed**.

- And that's what I think David realized:

- **"If I kill Saul...**

- **I become Saul.**

- **See, if God put Saul on the throne...**

- **then it's God's job to remove him."**

And it's my first point this morning: you gotta **SLIDE WAIT FOR IT**

- Y'all WAITING WORKS.
- But you've gotta WAIT FOR IT.

David knows he shouldn't murder...6th commandment...

let alone murder **the Lord's anointed** king.

And even with this seemingly providential opportunity...

- David will not be like Saul.
- He will not become the very one he was destined to replace.

And so he WAITS FOR IT.

APPLICATION

So, let's make some applications here.

- **One of the hardest parts**
- **of faithfully following Jesus**
- **is trusting God's process and timing.**

God says WAIT FOR IT...*"but I want it now!"*

This is so very important, church:

- **sometimes we get a feeling that we should do something,**
- **and we think that means it requires immediate action.**

But that can lead to us rushing things.

And I'll say it again:

- One of the hardest parts of faithfully following Jesus
- is trusting the process and the timing of God.

But there's nothing worse than getting a good thing at the wrong time.

- You ever get something too soon?
 - Way before you're ready to handle it?
- It can actually be tragic!

WAIT FOR IT.

ILLUSTRATION: WAITING IN THE BIBLE

Y'all, waiting on God is the testimony of the entire Bible.

- Moses had to wait 40 years in the desert...
 - before he got to lead God's people out of slavery.
 - WAIT FOR IT.
- Joseph has a dream as a teenager...
 - and it takes two decades of suffering
 - before he saw that thing come to pass.
 - WAIT FOR IT.
- The Apostle Paul,
 - after he's knocked off his horse, blinded...
 - and radically converted to Christianity...
 - spends more than a decade being disciplined...
 - before he gets the call to plant churches.
 - You don't just instantly go from a Christian hater...
 - to THE APOSTLE PAUL.
 - It takes time!
 - WAIT FOR IT.

TRANSITION

Here's a good rule of thumb:

- faithfulness rarely requires immediate action...
- but it always requires waiting.

And you know the only thing harder than waiting on the Lord?

- The only thing harder than WAITING for God's timing...
- is WISHING that you had.

Man how many of our regrets are from NOT waiting for it?

WAIT FOR IT. Now, look at verses 8-15:

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1 SAMUEL 24:8-15

[8] Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. [9] And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'?" [10] Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.' [11] See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. [12] May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. [13] As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. [14] After whom has the king of Israel come out?

After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! [15] May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand.”

POINT 2

Now, when I said **faithfulness rarely requires immediate action**

- some of you might want
- to push back on that,
 - *“Sometimes it does!”*
 - *Pastor, that sounds pretty passive!*
 - *Sometimes you gotta do something!”*

But note here: David doesn’t do NOTHING.

David gives this mega-speech.

- And for the umteenth time,
- David is going to try to reconcile with...
- and convince Saul that he is not out to get him.

And that’s a big deal. Because, you see, WAITING is not a passive thing.

And it’s my second point:

- As you WAIT FOR IT...
- You **SLIDE** WORK FOR IT

Actually, WAITING is your WORK.

- Waiting isn’t just sitting on your couch, doing nothing.
- David’s not just hanging in a cave, doing nothing.
 - No, he gets after it!
 - He WORKS FOR IT!

David's doing all kinds of work.

- David's running.
- David's hiding.
- David's fighting.
- David's pleading.
 - That sounds like work!

Waiting takes work.

But listen, WAITING WORKS.

You gotta work while you wait!

ILLUSTRATION: PROM DINNER

For one of my proms in high school, I went with a girl who was...

- well, her family was in a much higher tax bracket
- than my family was.

And so, she wanted to go to dinner at a super fancy restaurant.

- It was a 5-star restaurant at The Broadmoor, ok?
- Bougee!

And my family...we weren't 5-star restaurant kind of people.

- We were Country Town Buffet, kind of people. Ok?
- Like, bring a doggy bag to a buffet, kind of people.

So, this caliper restaurant was a new experience for me.

Like, as we sat down...

- a guy took my napkin and placed it in my lap...
 - and I almost ninja'd him, right?
 - Cause not a lot of people place things in my lap.
 - That is NOT a level of service I require.

- Every time I took a drink from my water glass,
 - there was someone hovering there to refill it.
- There was, legit, a FLEET of people
 - who were there just for our table,
 - making sure we had everything we needed,
 - exactly as we wanted it.

“You wanna chew this steak for me and baby bird this thing?” Back off!

Now, what do we call those people?

- Stalkers? No!
- They’re waiters.
- That’s what we’re talking about.

You WAIT on the Lord...

- and that requires attentiveness...
- that requires action...
- that requires WORK.

It’s not passive...it’s active.

APPLICATION

Here’s how it often works...

We go, *“I wanna know God better. I should read my Bible.”*

So, we get to work.

- And we get up early for like a week or two.
 - But when we don’t have deep, meaningful experiences...
 - every single day in the Word,
 - we’re like, *“This isn’t working!”*
- And we’re out.

Or we're always looking for a new church...and so, we hop around...

- always looking for a better place...
- always looking for the spiritual silver bullet...
- the place that makes we FEEL Jesus more!
 - But then after three weeks at a place, we complain
 - because we don't have deep relationships...
 - and a passionate purpose...
 - and, *"did you hear that sermon today?"*
 - *Saul relieving himself!?! Really?"*

TRANSITION

Listen: you gotta WORK FOR IT.

- But we want it now.
- We want everything right now.
- And if it's not happening exactly right now,
- this just must not work.

But y'all...that's not work!

WAITING WORKS.

And you gotta WORK while you WAIT.

Alright, let's finish off this text. Verse 16:

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1 SAMUEL 24:16-22

[16] As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. [17] He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. [18] And you have

declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. [19] For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. [20] And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. [21] Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house." [22] And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

EXPLAIN

So, David's speech apparently paid off that day,

- because Saul goes home,
- and David gets back to the stronghold.
- But it's only temporary.

Saul's sorrow is not truly repentance.

- He feels bad in the moment,
- but it won't lead to change in his life.

EXPLAIN: CORNER OF THE ROBE

But what I want to do with the remainder of our time

- is to talk about this *corner of the robe* thing.

Because I think it's actually the key to this text.

The corner of the garment in Hebrew is called a *kānāp̄* (kaw-nawf').

- And that's the Hebrew word that's used here in 1 Samuel.
- And it can be translated *edge of the garment*,
- but it can also be translated *wing*.
 - He cut off Saul's wing.

And the wing...the *kānāp̄*...represented the authority of God.

Now, one benefit we have that the first readers of this text didn't...

- is that as 1 Samuel is chronicling David's story...
- we also have another book that acts almost like
- a personal diary of David's prayers to accompany it.

Many of our Psalms were written by David during these events.

And Psalm 57 was written during this very event.

I'll put it up on the screen:

SLIDE PSALM 57:1

A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

[1] Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,

for in you my soul takes refuge;

in the shadow of your wings [*kānāp̄*] I will take refuge,

till the storms of destruction pass by.

- So when David cuts off Saul's *kānāp̄*...
- he's really making a statement about authority.

This whole passage is actually about authority.

Whose authority are you under?

- Are you under your own authority?
 - Waiting on yourself?
- Or are you under the authority of God?
 - Waiting on him?

And in his reflection in Psalm 57 David says,

- *“God, I take refuge under your k̄anāp̄.”*
- David’s places himself under God’s authority.
 - He is not under the wing of Saul.
 - He’s not even under his own wing.
 - No, his authority...the wing he is under...is the Lord’s.

POINT 3

And I’ll make my final point here.

- Why do we WAIT FOR IT...
- and why do we WORK FOR IT?

Because that’s how we **SLIDE GET UNDER IT**

You gotta get under the Lord’s *k̄anāp̄*.

- It’s not about you taking matters into your own hands...
- it’s about getting under the correct authority...
 - the correct wing...
 - the correct *k̄anāp̄*.

WAITING WORKS...

- because it takes the authority off of yourself
- and places it on God.
- It’s how you GET UNDER God’s wings!

CONCLUSION

But there is one more, really cool insight from this passage:
Jesus was the Messiah, ok? That's one of his titles.

- But what does the word *messiah* literally mean?

Well, look all the way back to 1 Samuel 24 verse 6 once more:

1 SAMUEL 24:6

[6] He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's *anointed*, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's *anointed*."

That Hebrew word rendered *anointed* is *māšîaḥ* (maw-shee'-akh).
It's where we get the word, *messiah*.

Jesus was, the *māšîaḥ*...the anointed one...

- And on his way into Jerusalem on the last week of his life,
 - which we are celebrating today...
 - Palm Sunday...
 - ushering in Holy Week.
- But on his way down the mount of Olives,
 - as he is coming to Jerusalem,
 - he looks over the Kidron Valley,
 - over the Eastern wall of Jerusalem...
- and the Scriptures say that he starts to weep.

And then Jesus says these words:

SLIDE W/PADS MATTHEW 23:37

[37] “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

- Looking over the city where he would be betrayed...
- looking over the city where people would call for his crucifixion...
- looking over the city where he would be
 - mocked and shamed...
 - whipped and humiliated...
 - paraded through the streets...
 - and nailed to a cross...

Jesus wept over that city...

- *“O how I would gather you under my kānāp...my wings”*

And Jesus weeps over us in that same way.

The messiah wants you to find refuge in the shadow of his wings.

- Have you GOTTEN UNDER IT?
- Have you placed yourself in the shelter of his wings?
- Have you submitted yourself under his authority?

And listen, even if it feels like this season is excruciating slow...

if it feels like your waiting will never end...

- look to the Bible...
- look to David.

- WAIT FOR IT.
 - It's worth it.
- But as you wait, WORK FOR IT.
 - Waiting is your work.
- And it's always to GET you UNDER IT.
- To find your authority under the shadow of God's wings.

Church, **SLIDE WAITING WORKS.**

And that's why I had Isaiah 40 read over us this morning.

Once again:

Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

WAITING WORKS...so, what are you waiting for?

Let's pray.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

- Davis, Dale Ralph. Focus on the Bible. 1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart.
- Greear, J.D. *Patience*.
- Martin, Joby. *The Lord Judge*.
- Tsumura, David Toshio. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. The First Book of Samuel.
- Wilkerson, Rich. *Bricklayers*.