

## MESSAGE NOTES

### VALLEY OF VISION

#### Part 7: Refusing Revenge

1 Samuel 24: 1 - 13

September 1/2, 2018

Pastor of Student Ministries, Brian Rayburn

*After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." 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. 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. 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. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. 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." 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. 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. He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'? 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.' 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. 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. As the old saying goes, "From evildoers come evil deeds," so my hand will not touch you. — 1 Samuel 24:1–13*

**Pettiness and retaliation will always have fans.**

**Beware of confusing opportunities and desires with God's will.**

**3 Things You and I need to Prayerfully Consider:**

1. Love and forgiveness are in your hands, justice and judgement remain God's.
2. Holding grudges is passive aggressive retaliation.
3. Restraint does not always bring reconciliation, but the goal is righteousness not rightness with everyone.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### VALLEY OF VISION

#### Part 7: Refusing Revenge

1 Samuel 24: 1 - 13

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1. Brian said, "Pettness and retaliation will always have fans, don't listen to them." What is your process for filtering out helpful and unhelpful information? How is this process similar or different when the person giving it is a mature Christian?
2. Brian's first point was "Love and forgiveness are in your hands, justice and judgement remain God's." What about this statement is hard to believe and trust?
3. Brian's second point was "Holding grudges is passive aggressive retaliation". Without naming the person or reason (or justifying it) can you name a person you still harbor a grudge against and can you talk about how this grudge actually hurts you more than it does them?
4. Talk about a time in your life where your restraint (refusal to retaliate) didn't bring about reconciliation. Do you regret your restraint, why or why not?
5. Have you been practicing the prayer Brian offered in the notes and if so how is it changing your heart, or not? Discuss