
A Conscientious Heart

1 SAMUEL 24

Lean In

1. Can you think of a time when you were glad that you listened to your conscience? How about a time when you wish you had? Share as you feel comfortable.

Look Down

Read 1 Samuel 24

2. What brings Saul to En Gedi? To this particular cave? (see 1 Sam 19:1, 11, 15, 23:15)
3. Why does David cut off part of Saul's robe? Why was David "conscience-stricken" for having cut the corner of Saul's robe? What proclamation should David's action in v.3 remind you of? (See 1 Sam 15:27-29)
4. What do the following verses have to say about the conscience:
 - 2 Samuel 24:10
 - Job 27:6
 - Acts 24:16
 - Romans 2:15
 - Romans 9:1
 - Romans 13:5
 - 1 Corinthians 4:4
 - 1 Tim 1:19
5. Why does David not kill Saul? What pressures did he have which might have "excused" killing him? What regrets would David have had to deal with if he would have allowed his men to eliminate Saul, in that cave, when they had the opportunity?
6. Why does David prostrate himself before Saul (v.8)? What is the significance of such action?
7. What arguments does David use to convince Saul of his innocence (vv. 8-15)?
8. Have a look at v. 12. What does David recognize he needs to entrust to God and what does he have to do?
9. When David speaks of Saul being on the trail of a dead dog or a flea (v.14) to whom or what is he referring? What does he mean by that?
10. Do you think Saul's repentance here is sincere? Why or why not? Does David think so?
11. What irony do you see in verses 21-22? How are their roles reversed? Did David keep his part of the oath? (See 2 Samuel 9:1-2)

Look Out

12. Where have you seen the downward spiral of 1 Tim 1:18-19 displayed in real life?

Look In

13. Is it ever right to go against conscience in a small area for the sake of a supposedly greater good? Explain.
14. In what ways ought Christians to be "conscience stricken" even over light matters today? How does this contrast to the way the world tends to react to everyday situations? Discuss or write some examples.
15. Is there any area of your life where your conscience is eroding? Ask God to cleanse you and create in you a new heart. Read Psalm 51 together and confess as you feel appropriate.