

THE MAKING OF A KING

Part 4: Handling the 'Sauls' in life

Key: God uses our adversities and our adversaries to shape our character for His future purposes.

Episode 1: The **Spear** in the Palace

1 Sam. 18:10-11; Psalm 59:3-4

David learned to sometimes just **walk away**

Key: Don't pick up a spear and throw it back

How was David feeling in the moment? **Unjustly Targeted**

Episode 2: The close call at **Maon**

1 Sam. 23:24-29; Psalm 54:3-4

David learned to sometimes **play the fugitive**

Key: It's okay to **protect** yourself from real harm

How was David feeling in the moment? **Betrayed but sustained**

Episode 3: The cave at **En-Gedi**

1 Sam. 24:1-7; Psalm 142:3-4

David learned to sometimes **leave justice up to God**

Key: Don't take your own **revenge**

How was David feeling in the moment? **Absolute Isolation and Despair**

Episode 4: The camp at **Ziph**

1 Sam. 26:1-2, 6-12; Ps. 18:17-18, 20

David learned to sometimes **wait for God's timing**

Key: Don't get **ahead** of God's plan

1 Sam. 26:10-11

How was David feeling in the moment? **Vindicated and Relieved**

Takeaways:

Remember, when you're facing your 'Sauls,' God is shaping your character for His future purposes.

Remember Jesus, our ultimate King, who didn't throw spears back, who submitted to the Father's time table, and who forgave His enemies even from the cross.

1 Peter 2:23

Auburn Grace Community Church – October 18th, 2026

Life Application Questions – October 18, 2026

Psalm 59:1-2 *Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; set me securely on high away from those who rise up against me. Deliver me from those who do iniquity and save me from men of bloodshed.*

DISCOVER

1. What makes a person an adversary to you? How have your adversaries worked to shape you into the person you are today?
2. Have you ever had to deal with an adversity that you should have walked away from? What happened? When and why did you first get the inkling that you should've handled it differently?
3. Do you believe that being offended is a choice? Is taking offense always a bad idea? Explain. What does the term "righteous indignation" mean? Cite biblical examples.
4. Define the term "self-preservation." When is it appropriate for this behavior to kick-in?

EXPLORE

1. Read Job 36:15. How does understanding the purpose of adversity change your perspective on personal suffering?
2. Read 1 Samuel 18:10-11. Why would David willingly serve the king in this way, knowing he was in a volatile, toxic environment? What purpose(s) might have David sought after? What higher spiritual understanding did David have that helped him deal with this jealous king?
3. Read 1 Samuel 23:24-29. What did Pastor Phil mean when he said, "Sometimes it's ok to play the fugitive"? How can we maintain our moral integrity when we are under pressure or facing unjust treatment, as David did with Saul? How does David's escape relate to Romans 8:28's promise of God's purpose?
4. Why was David so deeply committed to not raising a hand against the Lord's anointed, King Saul? What implications should that kind of deep loyalty have in our politics? In our workplaces? In our relationships? In our families?
5. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7. Why is it important to distinguish a person's character from the office or position they hold? What happens when we assassinate the character of our leaders? What value is there when we show respect for boundaries?

EXPERIENCE

1. In what ways can you become more attuned to God's voice during times of hardship?
2. David wrote about his feelings and experiences through his Psalms. How do you express yourself after criticism or attacks? What are some meaningful ways to express ourselves after adversity?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:23. In what ways can we practically entrust ourselves to "Him who judges righteously" in our daily lives? How does understanding God's role as a just judge help us to forgive those who wrong us? What are some practical steps we can take to follow Jesus' example of non-retaliation in our relationships?

PRAY

Father God, we face adversaries routinely in our lives. Help us to embrace these people as Your "anointed" and Your means of shaping our characters. Help us to relinquish to Your Spirit by submitting to Your timetable and Your perfect justice. In Jesus' name. Amen.