



Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, October 25, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *The River*

Build Your Kingdom Here

Announcements for Sunday 10/25/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- The Pool is closed for the season.
- Please pickup your Operation Christmas Child boxes in the Carport. Last day to return completed boxes will be Sunday, Nov. 22nd at the Church.
- Time to get ready for our annual Christmas Tree Sales. We will have 100 trees to sell, and we need volunteers for **General Lot Help, Meals, and Tree Delivery**. Please see Adriana Wray for any questions and signup in the Carport.
- *** Reminder *** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Sat. night 10/31 before you go to bed.
- If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

Thank You for your Offerings!!

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Adoration *Glorious Day*

Scripture Reading from selected verses; 1 Samuel 24 and 1 Samuel 26

Message: *Hiding from the King*

Affirmation: *No Fear*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Chapter 24 David Spares Saul's Life

24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

12 "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

20 "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Chapter 26 David Again Spares Saul

26:2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. **8**

Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?"

10 David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."

23 “The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

24 “Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Devotional: Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

1 Samuel 18: David’s rise breeds Saul’s jealousy

- Jonathan’s covenant love for David (18:1,3-4).
- Saul’s jealousy begins (18:7-9).

A heart resisting God produces jealousy when the blessings of God rest on someone else.

- Saul attempts to destroy David (18:10-12, 21).
- Saul’s response is not to yield but to harden. Knowing is not the same things as submitting. When have we seen this before?

A heart full of fear when estranged from God can be the fruit of seeing the favor of God on another.

1 Samuel 19: Saul’s hostility, David’s narrow escapes.

- Jonathan’s Intercession Secures a Reprieve (19:1, 4, 6)
- There is renewed violence in Saul’s house.
- Michal’s deception saves David’s life (19:12).

God works through imperfect people and ordinary means to preserve His purposes.

- David’s flight to Samuel, Spirit’s unexpected work (19:18, 23-24).

Divine intervention: The LORD restrains king Saul.

1 Samuel 20: Saul rages, Jonathan covenants with David.

- David’s appeal (What is my iniquity), plan to test Saul (20:1, 3, 17)
- Jonathan cannot believe that his father really wants to kill David.
- Test: go home for New Moon festival (family commitment).
- Jonathan makes David vow again with the LORD as witness.
- Saul rages, exposes his rejection of David (20:31-33).
- The final farewell and renewed oath (20:41-42).

Unrepented sin does not stay contained. Saul’s resentment towards David now becomes resentment towards his son.

The Story: compare and contrast

- Responding to God’s chosen king:
 - Saul responds with wounded pride (18:8,9), fear (18:12), manipulation (18:21), murder attempts (19:1, 10), to a rage that turns on his own son.
 - Jonathan responds with covenant love (18:1-4), costly intercession (19:4), loyalty that surrenders his own claim and asks for mercy on his house (20:14-17, 42).
- The LORD is ever present in the narrative:
 - The LORD is with David (18:12, 28)
 - The LORD restrains Saul’s messengers and Saul at Naioth (19:23-24).

- The LORD is invoked as the witness Who will stand between the descendants of two friends forever (20:42).
- All of those point to David's greater Son.

Theological Implications:

1. God is sovereign as seen in the preservation of His anointed.
2. Jealousy can be evidence of spiritual corruption.
3. Covenant love is a costly loyalty to the purposes of God.
4. The Spirit has a restraining power over those who resist Him.
5. There is a difference between temporary remorse and repentance.
6. Covenant mercy outlives its makers.
7. This is a foreshadowing of the rejected and vindicated King.

Takeaways:

- Bring envy/ jealousy to light early. Ask honestly what is rising in you and why. Confess it and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart that can rejoice in what God is doing in others.
- Do not mistake pressured promises for repentance. Ask God for the deeper change that outlasts the moment. Invite accountability for additional resolve.
- Teach/ influence others to celebrate other's success.
- Cultivate leadership character in others that are like Jonathan who make room for those whom God is raising up.
- Find opportunities to find your Jonathan or be a Jonathan for others.
- When dealing with ungodly opposition, or persecution, trust the God Who preserved David through every scheme. Keep doing the next right thing/ step and seek out the faithful friend who will stand with you.

1 Samuel 21

- David flees Saul and arrives at Nob, where he lies to the priest Ahimelech, claiming a secret errand for the king.
- Ahimelech gives him the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword.
- Doeg the Edomite is present and watches it all.
- David escapes to Gath, fears for his life, and pretends to be insane before King Achish, who sends him away.
- He escaped by pretending to be insane before King Achish, highlighting both his desperation and God's provision during his flight.

1 Samuel 22

- David hides in the cave of Adullam, where about four hundred distressed and discontented men gather to him.
- Doeg tells Saul that Ahimelech helped David.
- Saul's own guards refuse to strike the priests, so Doeg kills eighty-five of them and destroys Nob.
- Abiathar alone escapes to David, who takes responsibility for the tragedy and promises him protection.
- This reveals Saul's growing wickedness and David's emergence as a leader and protector.

1 Samuel 23

- David inquires of the LORD and rescues Keilah from the Philistines.

- He learns the townspeople would hand him over to Saul, so he flees with about six hundred men.
- Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, strengthens his faith in God, and renews their covenant.
- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who nearly traps him at Maon until a Philistine raid calls Saul away.
- The chapter emphasizes God's guidance, protection, and faithfulness throughout David's wilderness trials.

1 Samuel 24

- Saul takes 3,000 chosen men to pursue David in the wilderness of En Gedi.
- Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men are hiding inside.
- David's men urge him to kill Saul, but he only cuts off a corner of the robe.
- David's conscience troubles him because Saul is the LORD's anointed.
- David calls out to Saul, bows, and shows the robe piece as proof of his innocence.
- David leaves judgment between them to the LORD.
- Saul weeps, admits David is more righteous, and acknowledges David will be king.
- David swears not to cut off Saul's descendants, and the two part ways.

1 Samuel 25

- After Samuel dies, David's men ask the wealthy Nabal for provisions in return for protecting his shepherds, and Nabal insults them.
- David sets out with four hundred men to kill every male in Nabal's house.
- Abigail meets him with food and persuades him not to take vengeance with his own hand.
- David blesses God for keeping him from bloodguilt.
- Soon afterward the Lord struck Nabal dead, demonstrating God's providence and reinforcing the lesson that David should trust God rather than seize justice for himself, and David marries Abigail.

1 Samuel 26

- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who takes 3,000 men to the wilderness of Ziph to find him.
- David and Abishai slip into Saul's camp at night and find the king asleep with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
- The whole camp sleeps under a deep sleep from the LORD.
- Abishai urges David to let him strike Saul, but David refuses to harm the LORD's anointed.
- David takes only the spear and water jar, and leaves.
- From a distant hilltop, David rebukes Abner for failing to guard his king and holds up the spear as proof.
- Saul admits his sin and blesses David.
- David returns the spear and entrusts his life to the LORD's deliverance.

The Hunted: A King Who Cannot Stop Hunting (24:2; 26:2)

- Saul takes 3,000 elite soldiers for the hunt of David. Israel is facing the Philistines, yet Saul has turned his best men against the one man who has been the Philistines' greatest enemy. This is backwards!
- Saul's weakness: envy driven by insecurity. The LORD has moved on, Saul has not.

- Herod hunts the infant Jesus Christ (greater David), sending soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem under 2 years old (Matthew 2:16).
- Jesus Christ was hunted by the religious establishment, who should have recognized Him.

The Hidden: Providence in the Dark (24:3; 26:3, 7, 12)

- Irony: in 24, Saul is hunting David and walks into the cave in which David is hiding. Saul wants to “cover his feet.”
- In 26, Saul is in a camp with his soldiers. No one wakes because the LORD has placed them in a sound sleep. Providence.
- If you are in a cave, you are not forgotten. The LORD sees where you are, and He is not surprised. Also know that there is no cave deep enough to hide from the LORD. Come out into His light.
- Has there been a place in your life where the providence of God has been arranging something in a way that you only understood later?
- Can you keep a “providence journal” when you see God’s hand?

The Whispers: Voices Saying “God Has Given Him to You” (24:4; 26:8)

- In 24, David’s men claim the LORD has given the enemy to David.
- In 26, Abishai says the LORD has delivered your enemy.
- Both voices sound spiritual, using the name of the LORD.
 - They read circumstances as a sign. Both voices are wrong.
 - They are not evil. This is how the tempter works.
 - The promise to David does not give permission to seize the throne.
- Have someone told you that your circumstances are the voice of God for you, but you suspect it is not true. Or maybe you have been misled? Come to the Savior who forgives and restores.
- How would you respond to someone who says, “God opened this door, so it must be His will”?
- Do you have a “Paul” in your life who can tell you hard truths and invite that person into your next significant decision?

The Restraint: “The LORD’s Anointed” (24:5–7; 26:9–11)

- In 24, David has the chance. His men are urging him. The enemy is helpless. David cuts Saul’s robe. Heart-stricken, says “Saul is the LORD’s anointed.”
- In 26, David says one cannot strike the LORD’s anointed and be guilt-free. God has plenty of ways to remove a king, and none of them requires David’s hand. David trusts God’s methods and God’s timing.
- Waiting is not weakness. Others may want action. David wanted obedience and was willing to trust.
- Is there someone against whom you are holding a grudge today? Come to the LORD now and lay it down. This is not easy. God can do what you can’t.
- Whom do you most struggle to leave in God’s hands, and what keeps you from releasing the situation to Him?
- Can you write the name of a person who has wronged you, and pray for that person daily for the next thirty days, as Jesus commanded (Matt 5:44).

The Appeal: Proof of Innocence from a Safe Distance (24:8, 10, 12)

- In 24, David calls out after Saul, “My Lord the king!” David bows. David makes his case with the cut robe corner. I was close enough to cut this, I could have killed you. There is no evil or rebellion in my hands.
- May the LORD judge between you and me. David appeals to a higher court.
- This is a pattern for every believer who has been slandered, mistreated, or falsely accused. First, tell the truth. Second, speak with respect. Third, refuse to retaliate. Fourth, leave the verdict with God. This is what Jesus Christ did on the cross (1 Peter 2:23).
- If you have been falsely accused, or treated unjustly, can you hand your case to the Lord? He is a better advocate and judge.
- When you have been wronged, do you tend to retaliate, withdraw, or entrust the matter to God? What is the reason?
- How can you speak the truth in love, like Jesus, without sinning in your anger (Ephesians 4:26).

The Confession: Saul Sees but Does Not Change (24:16–17, 20; 26:17, 21)

- In 24, Saul asks if it is David. Saul weeps. Saul says, “You are more righteous than I, for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. Now I know you will be king. Saul is confessing David’s righteousness, his own wickedness, and God’s will.
- In 26, Saul confesses, I have sinned. I will not harm you again. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.
- Saul goes home. David does not go with Saul. Saul has remorse, temporarily. Saul has felt the pain of being caught, but not the grief of having offended God.
- Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians draws the distinction between the sorrow of the world and the repentance that leads to salvation. Jesus want more than your tears.
- If you have been convicted of something, been sorry, but have not turned, today is the day to bring it to the altar, and ask for the gift of repentance. Ask for the new heart that God promises. Do not mistake feeling bad for being forgiven.
- Is there a sin in your life that is particularly besetting, what would a real turn look like?
- Is there a difference for you between being sorry for the consequences of sin and being sorry for offending God?

The Refuge: The Lord Rewards Righteousness (26:23–25)

- In 26:23, David trusts the LORD to repay each man for his righteousness and faithfulness. David does not say that he deserves to be rewarded. David says that it is the LORD who repays. David has put his case in the hands of the LORD.
- In 26:24, David prays for the life of Saul to be highly valued in the sight of the LORD.
- David has not won a military victory, nor has he been vindicated. David is still a fugitive. What has David gained? He has kept his hands clean, and his heart in the LORD. His refuge was the LORD (not the cave). See Psalm 57. David was still hunted. David was not afraid. David knew where he was hidden.
- Colossians 3:3 “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
- Where are you hiding today (busyness, anger, addictions, religious performance)? None can shelter you from the ONE who sees all. Come to the only true refuge.
- What does it mean to you that your life is “hidden with Christ in God”?

- Can you read Psalm 57 and Psalm 142 aloud once a day this week and personalize them as your own prayer?
- Can you identify the “hiding places” to which you run and ask them to replace them with His presence?
- Can you reach out to someone who is in a “cave season” right now, and share one promise from Scripture with them?

Element	1 Samuel 24 (the cave)	1 Samuel 26 (the camp)
The hunt	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (24:2)	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (26:2)
The exposure	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase
The whisper	David's men say God has handed him his enemy (24:4)	Abishai says God has handed him his enemy (26:8)
The refusal	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (24:6)	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (26:9)
The proof	David brings a token (the robe corner) to show he spared Saul	David brings tokens (spear and water jug) to show he spared Saul
Confession and blessing	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (24:16–20)	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (26:21, 25)
The parting	Saul goes home; David stays in the wilderness (24:22)	Saul returns to his place; David goes his way (26:25)

Conclusion: There is a Greater David.

- There is a king who cannot stop hunting. There is a cave and a camp where the hunter is put into the hunted man’s hands.
- There are voices that says, “God has given him to you.”
- David’s response: The LORD forbid. David appeals to the highest judge. David’s refuge is the LORD.
- Saul’s response: a confession that never become repentance.
- David is a good example, but he is not the final answer. David fails later. David’s story points to a Greater David: The Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ was hunted by a threatened king, just as David was. Jesus was hated without cause, as David was. Jesus did not merely refuse to stretch out His hand against His enemies. Jesus stretched out His hands on a cross for them and prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
- Are you, or someone you know, hiding from God? Or are you, or someone you know, hiding in Christ and needs encouragement about that?

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

Prayer Request: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org
 Pastor Larry: PastorLarry@OurMDC.org

Information: Info@OurMDC.org

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- Bring envy/ jealousy to light early. Ask honestly what is rising in you and why. Confess it and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart that can rejoice in what God is doing in others.
- Do not mistake pressured promises for repentance. Ask God for the deeper change that outlasts the moment. Invite accountability for additional resolve.
- Teach/ influence others to celebrate other's success.
- Cultivate leadership character in others that are like Jonathan who make room for those whom God is raising up.
- Find opportunities to find your Jonathan or be a Jonathan for others.
- When dealing with ungodly opposition, or persecution, trust the God Who preserved David through every scheme. Keep doing the next right thing/ step and seek out the faithful friend who will stand with you.

1 Samuel 21

- David flees Saul and arrives at Nob, where he lies to the priest Ahimelech, claiming a secret errand for the king.
- Ahimelech gives him the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword.
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- David escapes to Gath, fears for his life, and pretends to be insane before King Achish, who sends him away.
- He escaped by pretending to be insane before King Achish, highlighting both his desperation and God's provision during his flight.

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- David hides in the cave of Adullam, where about four hundred distressed and discontented men gather to him.
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- David inquires of the LORD and rescues Keilah from the Philistines.

- He learns the townspeople would hand him over to Saul, so he flees with about six hundred men.
- Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, strengthens his faith in God, and renews their covenant.
- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who nearly traps him at Maon until a Philistine raid calls Saul away.
- The chapter emphasizes God's guidance, protection, and faithfulness throughout David's wilderness trials.

1 Samuel 24

- Saul takes 3,000 chosen men to pursue David in the wilderness of En Gedi.
- Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men are hiding inside.
- David's men urge him to kill Saul, but he only cuts off a corner of the robe.
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- David calls out to Saul, bows, and shows the robe piece as proof of his innocence.
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- David swears not to cut off Saul's descendants, and the two part ways.

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- After Samuel dies, David's men ask the wealthy Nabal for provisions in return for protecting his shepherds, and Nabal insults them.
- David sets out with four hundred men to kill every male in Nabal's house.
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- David blesses God for keeping him from bloodguilt.
- Soon afterward the Lord struck Nabal dead, demonstrating God's providence and reinforcing the lesson that David should trust God rather than seize justice for himself, and David marries Abigail.

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- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who takes 3,000 men to the wilderness of Ziph to find him.
- David and Abishai slip into Saul's camp at night and find the king asleep with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
- The whole camp sleeps under a deep sleep from the LORD.
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- David takes only the spear and water jar, and leaves.
- From a distant hilltop, David rebukes Abner for failing to guard his king and holds up the spear as proof.
- Saul admits his sin and blesses David.
- David returns the spear and entrusts his life to the LORD's deliverance.

The Hunted: A King Who Cannot Stop Hunting (24:2; 26:2)

- Saul takes 3,000 elite soldiers for the hunt of David. Israel is facing the Philistines, yet Saul has turned his best men against the one man who has been the Philistines' greatest enemy. This is backwards!
- Saul's weakness: envy driven by insecurity. The LORD has moved on, Saul has not.

- Herod hunts the infant Jesus Christ (greater David), sending soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem under 2 years old (Matthew 2:16).
- Jesus Christ was hunted by the religious establishment, who should have recognized Him.

The Hidden: Providence in the Dark (24:3; 26:3, 7, 12)

- Irony: in 24, Saul is hunting David and walks into the cave in which David is hiding. Saul wants to “cover his feet.”
- In 26, Saul is in a camp with his soldiers. No one wakes because the LORD has placed them in a sound sleep. Providence.
- If you are in a cave, you are not forgotten. The LORD sees where you are, and He is not surprised. Also know that there is no cave deep enough to hide from the LORD. Come out into His light.
- Has there been a place in your life where the providence of God has been arranging something in a way that you only understood later?
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- Waiting is not weakness. Others may want action. David wanted obedience and was willing to trust.
- Is there someone against whom you are holding a grudge today? Come to the LORD now and lay it down. This is not easy. God can do what you can’t.
- Whom do you most struggle to leave in God’s hands, and what keeps you from releasing the situation to Him?
- Can you write the name of a person who has wronged you, and pray for that person daily for the next thirty days, as Jesus commanded (Matt 5:44).

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- If you have been falsely accused, or treated unjustly, can you hand your case to the Lord? He is a better advocate and judge.
- When you have been wronged, do you tend to retaliate, withdraw, or entrust the matter to God? What is the reason?
- How can you speak the truth in love, like Jesus, without sinning in your anger (Ephesians 4:26).

The Confession: Saul Sees but Does Not Change (24:16–17, 20; 26:17, 21)

- In 24, Saul asks if it is David. Saul weeps. Saul says, “You are more righteous than I, for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. Now I know you will be king. Saul is confessing David’s righteousness, his own wickedness, and God’s will.
- In 26, Saul confesses, I have sinned. I will not harm you again. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.
- Saul goes home. David does not go with Saul. Saul has remorse, temporarily. Saul has felt the pain of being caught, but not the grief of having offended God.
- Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians draws the distinction between the sorrow of the world and the repentance that leads to salvation. Jesus want more than your tears.
- If you have been convicted of something, been sorry, but have not turned, today is the day to bring it to the altar, and ask for the gift of repentance. Ask for the new heart that God promises. Do not mistake feeling bad for being forgiven.
- Is there a sin in your life that is particularly besetting, what would a real turn look like?
- Is there a difference for you between being sorry for the consequences of sin and being sorry for offending God?

The Refuge: The Lord Rewards Righteousness (26:23–25)

- In 26:23, David trusts the LORD to repay each man for his righteousness and faithfulness. David does not say that he deserves to be rewarded. David says that it is the LORD who repays. David has put his case in the hands of the LORD.
- In 26:24, David prays for the life of Saul to be highly valued in the sight of the LORD.
- David has not won a military victory, nor has he been vindicated. David is still a fugitive. What has David gained? He has kept his hands clean, and his heart in the LORD. His refuge was the LORD (not the cave). See Psalm 57. David was still hunted. David was not afraid. David knew where he was hidden.
- Colossians 3:3 “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
- Where are you hiding today (busyness, anger, addictions, religious performance)? None can shelter you from the ONE who sees all. Come to the only true refuge.
- What does it mean to you that your life is “hidden with Christ in God”?

- Can you read Psalm 57 and Psalm 142 aloud once a day this week and personalize them as your own prayer?
- Can you identify the “hiding places” to which you run and ask them to replace them with His presence?
- Can you reach out to someone who is in a “cave season” right now, and share one promise from Scripture with them?

Element	1 Samuel 24 (the cave)	1 Samuel 26 (the camp)
The hunt	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (24:2)	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (26:2)
The exposure	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase
The whisper	David's men say God has handed him his enemy (24:4)	Abishai says God has handed him his enemy (26:8)
The refusal	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (24:6)	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (26:9)
The proof	David brings a token (the robe corner) to show he spared Saul	David brings tokens (spear and water jug) to show he spared Saul
Confession and blessing	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (24:16–20)	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (26:21, 25)
The parting	Saul goes home; David stays in the wilderness (24:22)	Saul returns to his place; David goes his way (26:25)

Conclusion: There is a Greater David.

- There is a king who cannot stop hunting. There is a cave and a camp where the hunter is put into the hunted man’s hands.
- There are voices that says, “God has given him to you.”
- David’s response: The LORD forbid. David appeals to the highest judge. David’s refuge is the LORD.
- Saul’s response: a confession that never become repentance.
- David is a good example, but he is not the final answer. David fails later. David’s story points to a Greater David: The Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ was hunted by a threatened king, just as David was. Jesus was hated without cause, as David was. Jesus did not merely refuse to stretch out His hand against His enemies. Jesus stretched out His hands on a cross for them and prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
- Are you, or someone you know, hiding from God? Or are you, or someone you know, hiding in Christ and needs encouragement about that?

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

Prayer Request: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org
 Pastor Larry: PastorLarry@OurMDC.org

Information: Info@OurMDC.org

Office Location: 1641 Bixler Rd., Discovery Bay
 Mailing: PO Box 1667,
 Discovery Bay, CA 94505
 Church phone: (925) 354-1096



Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, October 25, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *The River*

Build Your Kingdom Here

Announcements for Sunday 10/25/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- The Pool is closed for the season.
- Please pickup your Operation Christmas Child boxes in the Carport. Last day to return completed boxes will be Sunday, Nov. 22nd at the Church.
- Time to get ready for our annual Christmas Tree Sales. We will have 100 trees to sell, and we need volunteers for **General Lot Help, Meals, and Tree Delivery**. Please see Adriana Wray for any questions and signup in the Carport.
- *** Reminder *** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Sat. night 10/31 before you go to bed.
- If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

Thank You for your Offerings!!

To Donate:

OFFERING BOXES – In Back

ONLINE

Go To: www.OurMDC.org

BY MAIL

Mariner's Discovery Church

P.O. Box 1667

Discovery Bay, CA. 94505

or **CALL THE OFFICE - (925) 354-1096**

Adoration *Glorious Day*

Scripture Reading from selected verses; 1 Samuel 24 and 1 Samuel 26

Message: *Hiding from the King*

Affirmation: *No Fear*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Chapter 24 David Spares Saul's Life

24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

12 "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

20 "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Chapter 26 David Again Spares Saul

26:2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. **8** Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?"

10 David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."

23 “The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

24 “Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Devotional: Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

1 Samuel 18: David’s rise breeds Saul’s jealousy

- Jonathan’s covenant love for David (18:1,3-4).
- Saul’s jealousy begins (18:7-9).

A heart resisting God produces jealousy when the blessings of God rest on someone else.

- Saul attempts to destroy David (18:10-12, 21).
- Saul’s response is not to yield but to harden. Knowing is not the same things as submitting. When have we seen this before?

A heart full of fear when estranged from God can be the fruit of seeing the favor of God on another.

1 Samuel 19: Saul’s hostility, David’s narrow escapes.

- Jonathan’s Intercession Secures a Reprieve (19:1, 4, 6)
- There is renewed violence in Saul’s house.
- Michal’s deception saves David’s life (19:12).

God works through imperfect people and ordinary means to preserve His purposes.

- David’s flight to Samuel, Spirit’s unexpected work (19:18, 23-24).

Divine intervention: The LORD restrains king Saul.

1 Samuel 20: Saul rages, Jonathan covenants with David.

- David’s appeal (What is my iniquity), plan to test Saul (20:1, 3, 17)
- Jonathan cannot believe that his father really wants to kill David.
- Test: go home for New Moon festival (family commitment).
- Jonathan makes David vow again with the LORD as witness.
- Saul rages, exposes his rejection of David (20:31-33).
- The final farewell and renewed oath (20:41-42).

Unrepented sin does not stay contained. Saul’s resentment towards David now becomes resentment towards his son.

The Story: compare and contrast

- Responding to God’s chosen king:
 - Saul responds with wounded pride (18:8,9), fear (18:12), manipulation (18:21), murder attempts (19:1, 10), to a rage that turns on his own son.
 - Jonathan responds with covenant love (18:1-4), costly intercession (19:4), loyalty that surrenders his own claim and asks for mercy on his house (20:14-17, 42).
- The LORD is ever present in the narrative:
 - The LORD is with David (18:12, 28)
 - The LORD restrains Saul’s messengers and Saul at Naioth (19:23-24).

- The LORD is invoked as the witness Who will stand between the descendants of two friends forever (20:42).
- All of those point to David's greater Son.

Theological Implications:

1. God is sovereign as seen in the preservation of His anointed.
2. Jealousy can be evidence of spiritual corruption.
3. Covenant love is a costly loyalty to the purposes of God.
4. The Spirit has a restraining power over those who resist Him.
5. There is a difference between temporary remorse and repentance.
6. Covenant mercy outlives its makers.
7. This is a foreshadowing of the rejected and vindicated King.

Takeaways:

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- If you have been convicted of something, been sorry, but have not turned, today is the day to bring it to the altar, and ask for the gift of repentance. Ask for the new heart that God promises. Do not mistake feeling bad for being forgiven.
- Is there a sin in your life that is particularly besetting, what would a real turn look like?
- Is there a difference for you between being sorry for the consequences of sin and being sorry for offending God?

The Refuge: The Lord Rewards Righteousness (26:23–25)

- In 26:23, David trusts the LORD to repay each man for his righteousness and faithfulness. David does not say that he deserves to be rewarded. David says that it is the LORD who repays. David has put his case in the hands of the LORD.
- In 26:24, David prays for the life of Saul to be highly valued in the sight of the LORD.
- David has not won a military victory, nor has he been vindicated. David is still a fugitive. What has David gained? He has kept his hands clean, and his heart in the LORD. His refuge was the LORD (not the cave). See Psalm 57. David was still hunted. David was not afraid. David knew where he was hidden.
- Colossians 3:3 “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
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Conclusion: There is a Greater David.

- There is a king who cannot stop hunting. There is a cave and a camp where the hunter is put into the hunted man’s hands.
- There are voices that says, “God has given him to you.”
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3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

12 "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

20 "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Chapter 26 David Again Spares Saul

26:2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. **8**

Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?"

10 David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."

23 “The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

24 “Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Devotional: Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

1 Samuel 18: David’s rise breeds Saul’s jealousy

- Jonathan’s covenant love for David (18:1,3-4).
- Saul’s jealousy begins (18:7-9).

A heart resisting God produces jealousy when the blessings of God rest on someone else.

- Saul attempts to destroy David (18:10-12, 21).
- Saul’s response is not to yield but to harden. Knowing is not the same things as submitting. When have we seen this before?

A heart full of fear when estranged from God can be the fruit of seeing the favor of God on another.

1 Samuel 19: Saul’s hostility, David’s narrow escapes.

- Jonathan’s Intercession Secures a Reprieve (19:1, 4, 6)
- There is renewed violence in Saul’s house.
- Michal’s deception saves David’s life (19:12).

God works through imperfect people and ordinary means to preserve His purposes.

- David’s flight to Samuel, Spirit’s unexpected work (19:18, 23-24).

Divine intervention: The LORD restrains king Saul.

1 Samuel 20: Saul rages, Jonathan covenants with David.

- David’s appeal (What is my iniquity), plan to test Saul (20:1, 3, 17)
- Jonathan cannot believe that his father really wants to kill David.
- Test: go home for New Moon festival (family commitment).
- Jonathan makes David vow again with the LORD as witness.
- Saul rages, exposes his rejection of David (20:31-33).
- The final farewell and renewed oath (20:41-42).

Unrepented sin does not stay contained. Saul’s resentment towards David now becomes resentment towards his son.

The Story: compare and contrast

- Responding to God’s chosen king:
 - Saul responds with wounded pride (18:8,9), fear (18:12), manipulation (18:21), murder attempts (19:1, 10), to a rage that turns on his own son.
 - Jonathan responds with covenant love (18:1-4), costly intercession (19:4), loyalty that surrenders his own claim and asks for mercy on his house (20:14-17, 42).
- The LORD is ever present in the narrative:
 - The LORD is with David (18:12, 28)
 - The LORD restrains Saul’s messengers and Saul at Naioth (19:23-24).

- The LORD is invoked as the witness Who will stand between the descendants of two friends forever (20:42).
- All of those point to David's greater Son.

Theological Implications:

1. God is sovereign as seen in the preservation of His anointed.
2. Jealousy can be evidence of spiritual corruption.
3. Covenant love is a costly loyalty to the purposes of God.
4. The Spirit has a restraining power over those who resist Him.
5. There is a difference between temporary remorse and repentance.
6. Covenant mercy outlives its makers.
7. This is a foreshadowing of the rejected and vindicated King.

Takeaways:

- Bring envy/ jealousy to light early. Ask honestly what is rising in you and why. Confess it and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart that can rejoice in what God is doing in others.
- Do not mistake pressured promises for repentance. Ask God for the deeper change that outlasts the moment. Invite accountability for additional resolve.
- Teach/ influence others to celebrate other's success.
- Cultivate leadership character in others that are like Jonathan who make room for those whom God is raising up.
- Find opportunities to find your Jonathan or be a Jonathan for others.
- When dealing with ungodly opposition, or persecution, trust the God Who preserved David through every scheme. Keep doing the next right thing/ step and seek out the faithful friend who will stand with you.

1 Samuel 21

- David flees Saul and arrives at Nob, where he lies to the priest Ahimelech, claiming a secret errand for the king.
- Ahimelech gives him the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword.
- Doeg the Edomite is present and watches it all.
- David escapes to Gath, fears for his life, and pretends to be insane before King Achish, who sends him away.
- He escaped by pretending to be insane before King Achish, highlighting both his desperation and God's provision during his flight.

1 Samuel 22

- David hides in the cave of Adullam, where about four hundred distressed and discontented men gather to him.
- Doeg tells Saul that Ahimelech helped David.
- Saul's own guards refuse to strike the priests, so Doeg kills eighty-five of them and destroys Nob.
- Abiathar alone escapes to David, who takes responsibility for the tragedy and promises him protection.
- This reveals Saul's growing wickedness and David's emergence as a leader and protector.

1 Samuel 23

- David inquires of the LORD and rescues Keilah from the Philistines.

- He learns the townspeople would hand him over to Saul, so he flees with about six hundred men.
- Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, strengthens his faith in God, and renews their covenant.
- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who nearly traps him at Maon until a Philistine raid calls Saul away.
- The chapter emphasizes God's guidance, protection, and faithfulness throughout David's wilderness trials.

1 Samuel 24

- Saul takes 3,000 chosen men to pursue David in the wilderness of En Gedi.
- Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men are hiding inside.
- David's men urge him to kill Saul, but he only cuts off a corner of the robe.
- David's conscience troubles him because Saul is the LORD's anointed.
- David calls out to Saul, bows, and shows the robe piece as proof of his innocence.
- David leaves judgment between them to the LORD.
- Saul weeps, admits David is more righteous, and acknowledges David will be king.
- David swears not to cut off Saul's descendants, and the two part ways.

1 Samuel 25

- After Samuel dies, David's men ask the wealthy Nabal for provisions in return for protecting his shepherds, and Nabal insults them.
- David sets out with four hundred men to kill every male in Nabal's house.
- Abigail meets him with food and persuades him not to take vengeance with his own hand.
- David blesses God for keeping him from bloodguilt.
- Soon afterward the Lord struck Nabal dead, demonstrating God's providence and reinforcing the lesson that David should trust God rather than seize justice for himself, and David marries Abigail.

1 Samuel 26

- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who takes 3,000 men to the wilderness of Ziph to find him.
- David and Abishai slip into Saul's camp at night and find the king asleep with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
- The whole camp sleeps under a deep sleep from the LORD.
- Abishai urges David to let him strike Saul, but David refuses to harm the LORD's anointed.
- David takes only the spear and water jar, and leaves.
- From a distant hilltop, David rebukes Abner for failing to guard his king and holds up the spear as proof.
- Saul admits his sin and blesses David.
- David returns the spear and entrusts his life to the LORD's deliverance.

The Hunted: A King Who Cannot Stop Hunting (24:2; 26:2)

- Saul takes 3,000 elite soldiers for the hunt of David. Israel is facing the Philistines, yet Saul has turned his best men against the one man who has been the Philistines' greatest enemy. This is backwards!
- Saul's weakness: envy driven by insecurity. The LORD has moved on, Saul has not.

- Herod hunts the infant Jesus Christ (greater David), sending soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem under 2 years old (Matthew 2:16).
- Jesus Christ was hunted by the religious establishment, who should have recognized Him.

The Hidden: Providence in the Dark (24:3; 26:3, 7, 12)

- Irony: in 24, Saul is hunting David and walks into the cave in which David is hiding. Saul wants to “cover his feet.”
- In 26, Saul is in a camp with his soldiers. No one wakes because the LORD has placed them in a sound sleep. Providence.
- If you are in a cave, you are not forgotten. The LORD sees where you are, and He is not surprised. Also know that there is no cave deep enough to hide from the LORD. Come out into His light.
- Has there been a place in your life where the providence of God has been arranging something in a way that you only understood later?
- Can you keep a “providence journal” when you see God’s hand?

The Whispers: Voices Saying “God Has Given Him to You” (24:4; 26:8)

- In 24, David’s men claim the LORD has given the enemy to David.
- In 26, Abishai says the LORD has delivered your enemy.
- Both voices sound spiritual, using the name of the LORD.
 - They read circumstances as a sign. Both voices are wrong.
 - They are not evil. This is how the tempter works.
 - The promise to David does not give permission to seize the throne.
- Have someone told you that your circumstances are the voice of God for you, but you suspect it is not true. Or maybe you have been misled? Come to the Savior who forgives and restores.
- How would you respond to someone who says, “God opened this door, so it must be His will”?
- Do you have a “Paul” in your life who can tell you hard truths and invite that person into your next significant decision?

The Restraint: “The LORD’s Anointed” (24:5–7; 26:9–11)

- In 24, David has the chance. His men are urging him. The enemy is helpless. David cuts Saul’s robe. Heart-stricken, says “Saul is the LORD’s anointed.”
- In 26, David says one cannot strike the LORD’s anointed and be guilt-free. God has plenty of ways to remove a king, and none of them requires David’s hand. David trusts God’s methods and God’s timing.
- Waiting is not weakness. Others may want action. David wanted obedience and was willing to trust.
- Is there someone against whom you are holding a grudge today? Come to the LORD now and lay it down. This is not easy. God can do what you can’t.
- Whom do you most struggle to leave in God’s hands, and what keeps you from releasing the situation to Him?
- Can you write the name of a person who has wronged you, and pray for that person daily for the next thirty days, as Jesus commanded (Matt 5:44).

The Appeal: Proof of Innocence from a Safe Distance (24:8, 10, 12)

- In 24, David calls out after Saul, “My Lord the king!” David bows. David makes his case with the cut robe corner. I was close enough to cut this, I could have killed you. There is no evil or rebellion in my hands.
- May the LORD judge between you and me. David appeals to a higher court.
- This is a pattern for every believer who has been slandered, mistreated, or falsely accused. First, tell the truth. Second, speak with respect. Third, refuse to retaliate. Fourth, leave the verdict with God. This is what Jesus Christ did on the cross (1 Peter 2:23).
- If you have been falsely accused, or treated unjustly, can you hand your case to the Lord? He is a better advocate and judge.
- When you have been wronged, do you tend to retaliate, withdraw, or entrust the matter to God? What is the reason?
- How can you speak the truth in love, like Jesus, without sinning in your anger (Ephesians 4:26).

The Confession: Saul Sees but Does Not Change (24:16–17, 20; 26:17, 21)

- In 24, Saul asks if it is David. Saul weeps. Saul says, “You are more righteous than I, for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. Now I know you will be king. Saul is confessing David’s righteousness, his own wickedness, and God’s will.
- In 26, Saul confesses, I have sinned. I will not harm you again. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.
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10 David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."

23 “The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

24 “Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Devotional: Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

1 Samuel 18: David’s rise breeds Saul’s jealousy

- Jonathan’s covenant love for David (18:1,3-4).
- Saul’s jealousy begins (18:7-9).

A heart resisting God produces jealousy when the blessings of God rest on someone else.

- Saul attempts to destroy David (18:10-12, 21).
- Saul’s response is not to yield but to harden. Knowing is not the same things as submitting. When have we seen this before?

A heart full of fear when estranged from God can be the fruit of seeing the favor of God on another.

1 Samuel 19: Saul’s hostility, David’s narrow escapes.

- Jonathan’s Intercession Secures a Reprieve (19:1, 4, 6)
- There is renewed violence in Saul’s house.
- Michal’s deception saves David’s life (19:12).

God works through imperfect people and ordinary means to preserve His purposes.

- David’s flight to Samuel, Spirit’s unexpected work (19:18, 23-24).

Divine intervention: The LORD restrains king Saul.

1 Samuel 20: Saul rages, Jonathan covenants with David.

- David’s appeal (What is my iniquity), plan to test Saul (20:1, 3, 17)
- Jonathan cannot believe that his father really wants to kill David.
- Test: go home for New Moon festival (family commitment).
- Jonathan makes David vow again with the LORD as witness.
- Saul rages, exposes his rejection of David (20:31-33).
- The final farewell and renewed oath (20:41-42).

Unrepented sin does not stay contained. Saul’s resentment towards David now becomes resentment towards his son.

The Story: compare and contrast

- Responding to God’s chosen king:
 - Saul responds with wounded pride (18:8,9), fear (18:12), manipulation (18:21), murder attempts (19:1, 10), to a rage that turns on his own son.
 - Jonathan responds with covenant love (18:1-4), costly intercession (19:4), loyalty that surrenders his own claim and asks for mercy on his house (20:14-17, 42).
- The LORD is ever present in the narrative:
 - The LORD is with David (18:12, 28)
 - The LORD restrains Saul’s messengers and Saul at Naioth (19:23-24).

- The LORD is invoked as the witness Who will stand between the descendants of two friends forever (20:42).
- All of those point to David's greater Son.

Theological Implications:

1. God is sovereign as seen in the preservation of His anointed.
2. Jealousy can be evidence of spiritual corruption.
3. Covenant love is a costly loyalty to the purposes of God.
4. The Spirit has a restraining power over those who resist Him.
5. There is a difference between temporary remorse and repentance.
6. Covenant mercy outlives its makers.
7. This is a foreshadowing of the rejected and vindicated King.

Takeaways:

- Bring envy/ jealousy to light early. Ask honestly what is rising in you and why. Confess it and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart that can rejoice in what God is doing in others.
- Do not mistake pressured promises for repentance. Ask God for the deeper change that outlasts the moment. Invite accountability for additional resolve.
- Teach/ influence others to celebrate other's success.
- Cultivate leadership character in others that are like Jonathan who make room for those whom God is raising up.
- Find opportunities to find your Jonathan or be a Jonathan for others.
- When dealing with ungodly opposition, or persecution, trust the God Who preserved David through every scheme. Keep doing the next right thing/ step and seek out the faithful friend who will stand with you.

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- David flees Saul and arrives at Nob, where he lies to the priest Ahimelech, claiming a secret errand for the king.
- Ahimelech gives him the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword.
- Doeg the Edomite is present and watches it all.
- David escapes to Gath, fears for his life, and pretends to be insane before King Achish, who sends him away.
- He escaped by pretending to be insane before King Achish, highlighting both his desperation and God's provision during his flight.

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- David hides in the cave of Adullam, where about four hundred distressed and discontented men gather to him.
- Doeg tells Saul that Ahimelech helped David.
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- Abiathar alone escapes to David, who takes responsibility for the tragedy and promises him protection.
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- David inquires of the LORD and rescues Keilah from the Philistines.

- He learns the townspeople would hand him over to Saul, so he flees with about six hundred men.
- Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, strengthens his faith in God, and renews their covenant.
- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who nearly traps him at Maon until a Philistine raid calls Saul away.
- The chapter emphasizes God's guidance, protection, and faithfulness throughout David's wilderness trials.

1 Samuel 24

- Saul takes 3,000 chosen men to pursue David in the wilderness of En Gedi.
- Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men are hiding inside.
- David's men urge him to kill Saul, but he only cuts off a corner of the robe.
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- David blesses God for keeping him from bloodguilt.
- Soon afterward the Lord struck Nabal dead, demonstrating God's providence and reinforcing the lesson that David should trust God rather than seize justice for himself, and David marries Abigail.

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- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who takes 3,000 men to the wilderness of Ziph to find him.
- David and Abishai slip into Saul's camp at night and find the king asleep with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
- The whole camp sleeps under a deep sleep from the LORD.
- Abishai urges David to let him strike Saul, but David refuses to harm the LORD's anointed.
- David takes only the spear and water jar, and leaves.
- From a distant hilltop, David rebukes Abner for failing to guard his king and holds up the spear as proof.
- Saul admits his sin and blesses David.
- David returns the spear and entrusts his life to the LORD's deliverance.

The Hunted: A King Who Cannot Stop Hunting (24:2; 26:2)

- Saul takes 3,000 elite soldiers for the hunt of David. Israel is facing the Philistines, yet Saul has turned his best men against the one man who has been the Philistines' greatest enemy. This is backwards!
- Saul's weakness: envy driven by insecurity. The LORD has moved on, Saul has not.

- Herod hunts the infant Jesus Christ (greater David), sending soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem under 2 years old (Matthew 2:16).
- Jesus Christ was hunted by the religious establishment, who should have recognized Him.

The Hidden: Providence in the Dark (24:3; 26:3, 7, 12)

- Irony: in 24, Saul is hunting David and walks into the cave in which David is hiding. Saul wants to “cover his feet.”
- In 26, Saul is in a camp with his soldiers. No one wakes because the LORD has placed them in a sound sleep. Providence.
- If you are in a cave, you are not forgotten. The LORD sees where you are, and He is not surprised. Also know that there is no cave deep enough to hide from the LORD. Come out into His light.
- Has there been a place in your life where the providence of God has been arranging something in a way that you only understood later?
- Can you keep a “providence journal” when you see God’s hand?

The Whispers: Voices Saying “God Has Given Him to You” (24:4; 26:8)

- In 24, David’s men claim the LORD has given the enemy to David.
- In 26, Abishai says the LORD has delivered your enemy.
- Both voices sound spiritual, using the name of the LORD.
 - They read circumstances as a sign. Both voices are wrong.
 - They are not evil. This is how the tempter works.
 - The promise to David does not give permission to seize the throne.
- Have someone told you that your circumstances are the voice of God for you, but you suspect it is not true. Or maybe you have been misled? Come to the Savior who forgives and restores.
- How would you respond to someone who says, “God opened this door, so it must be His will”?
- Do you have a “Paul” in your life who can tell you hard truths and invite that person into your next significant decision?

The Restraint: “The LORD’s Anointed” (24:5–7; 26:9–11)

- In 24, David has the chance. His men are urging him. The enemy is helpless. David cuts Saul’s robe. Heart-stricken, says “Saul is the LORD’s anointed.”
- In 26, David says one cannot strike the LORD’s anointed and be guilt-free. God has plenty of ways to remove a king, and none of them requires David’s hand. David trusts God’s methods and God’s timing.
- Waiting is not weakness. Others may want action. David wanted obedience and was willing to trust.
- Is there someone against whom you are holding a grudge today? Come to the LORD now and lay it down. This is not easy. God can do what you can’t.
- Whom do you most struggle to leave in God’s hands, and what keeps you from releasing the situation to Him?
- Can you write the name of a person who has wronged you, and pray for that person daily for the next thirty days, as Jesus commanded (Matt 5:44).

The Appeal: Proof of Innocence from a Safe Distance (24:8, 10, 12)

- In 24, David calls out after Saul, “My Lord the king!” David bows. David makes his case with the cut robe corner. I was close enough to cut this, I could have killed you. There is no evil or rebellion in my hands.
- May the LORD judge between you and me. David appeals to a higher court.
- This is a pattern for every believer who has been slandered, mistreated, or falsely accused. First, tell the truth. Second, speak with respect. Third, refuse to retaliate. Fourth, leave the verdict with God. This is what Jesus Christ did on the cross (1 Peter 2:23).
- If you have been falsely accused, or treated unjustly, can you hand your case to the Lord? He is a better advocate and judge.
- When you have been wronged, do you tend to retaliate, withdraw, or entrust the matter to God? What is the reason?
- How can you speak the truth in love, like Jesus, without sinning in your anger (Ephesians 4:26).

The Confession: Saul Sees but Does Not Change (24:16–17, 20; 26:17, 21)

- In 24, Saul asks if it is David. Saul weeps. Saul says, “You are more righteous than I, for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. Now I know you will be king. Saul is confessing David’s righteousness, his own wickedness, and God’s will.
- In 26, Saul confesses, I have sinned. I will not harm you again. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.
- Saul goes home. David does not go with Saul. Saul has remorse, temporarily. Saul has felt the pain of being caught, but not the grief of having offended God.
- Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians draws the distinction between the sorrow of the world and the repentance that leads to salvation. Jesus want more than your tears.
- If you have been convicted of something, been sorry, but have not turned, today is the day to bring it to the altar, and ask for the gift of repentance. Ask for the new heart that God promises. Do not mistake feeling bad for being forgiven.
- Is there a sin in your life that is particularly besetting, what would a real turn look like?
- Is there a difference for you between being sorry for the consequences of sin and being sorry for offending God?

The Refuge: The Lord Rewards Righteousness (26:23–25)

- In 26:23, David trusts the LORD to repay each man for his righteousness and faithfulness. David does not say that he deserves to be rewarded. David says that it is the LORD who repays. David has put his case in the hands of the LORD.
- In 26:24, David prays for the life of Saul to be highly valued in the sight of the LORD.
- David has not won a military victory, nor has he been vindicated. David is still a fugitive. What has David gained? He has kept his hands clean, and his heart in the LORD. His refuge was the LORD (not the cave). See Psalm 57. David was still hunted. David was not afraid. David knew where he was hidden.
- Colossians 3:3 “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
- Where are you hiding today (busyness, anger, addictions, religious performance)? None can shelter you from the ONE who sees all. Come to the only true refuge.
- What does it mean to you that your life is “hidden with Christ in God”?

- Can you read Psalm 57 and Psalm 142 aloud once a day this week and personalize them as your own prayer?
- Can you identify the “hiding places” to which you run and ask them to replace them with His presence?
- Can you reach out to someone who is in a “cave season” right now, and share one promise from Scripture with them?

Element	1 Samuel 24 (the cave)	1 Samuel 26 (the camp)
The hunt	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (24:2)	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (26:2)
The exposure	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase
The whisper	David's men say God has handed him his enemy (24:4)	Abishai says God has handed him his enemy (26:8)
The refusal	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (24:6)	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (26:9)
The proof	David brings a token (the robe corner) to show he spared Saul	David brings tokens (spear and water jug) to show he spared Saul
Confession and blessing	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (24:16–20)	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (26:21, 25)
The parting	Saul goes home; David stays in the wilderness (24:22)	Saul returns to his place; David goes his way (26:25)

Conclusion: There is a Greater David.

- There is a king who cannot stop hunting. There is a cave and a camp where the hunter is put into the hunted man’s hands.
- There are voices that says, “God has given him to you.”
- David’s response: The LORD forbid. David appeals to the highest judge. David’s refuge is the LORD.
- Saul’s response: a confession that never become repentance.
- David is a good example, but he is not the final answer. David fails later. David’s story points to a Greater David: The Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ was hunted by a threatened king, just as David was. Jesus was hated without cause, as David was. Jesus did not merely refuse to stretch out His hand against His enemies. Jesus stretched out His hands on a cross for them and prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
- Are you, or someone you know, hiding from God? Or are you, or someone you know, hiding in Christ and needs encouragement about that?

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

Prayer Request: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org
 Pastor Larry: PastorLarry@OurMDC.org

Information: Info@OurMDC.org

Office Location: 1641 Bixler Rd., Discovery Bay
 Mailing: PO Box 1667,
 Discovery Bay, CA 94505
 Church phone: (925) 354-1096



Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, October 25, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *The River*

Build Your Kingdom Here

Announcements for Sunday 10/25/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- The Pool is closed for the season.
- Please pickup your Operation Christmas Child boxes in the Carport. Last day to return completed boxes will be Sunday, Nov. 22nd at the Church.
- Time to get ready for our annual Christmas Tree Sales. We will have 100 trees to sell, and we need volunteers for **General Lot Help, Meals, and Tree Delivery**. Please see Adriana Wray for any questions and signup in the Carport.
- *** Reminder *** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Sat. night 10/31 before you go to bed.
- If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

Thank You for your Offerings!!

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OFFERING BOXES – In Back

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Go To: www.OurMDC.org

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Mariner's Discovery Church

P.O. Box 1667

Discovery Bay, CA. 94505

or **CALL THE OFFICE - (925) 354-1096**

Adoration *Glorious Day*

Scripture Reading from selected verses; 1 Samuel 24 and 1 Samuel 26

Message: *Hiding from the King*

Affirmation: *No Fear*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Chapter 24 David Spares Saul's Life

24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

12 "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

20 "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Chapter 26 David Again Spares Saul

26:2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. **8** Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."

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- Herod hunts the infant Jesus Christ (greater David), sending soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem under 2 years old (Matthew 2:16).
- Jesus Christ was hunted by the religious establishment, who should have recognized Him.

The Hidden: Providence in the Dark (24:3; 26:3, 7, 12)

- Irony: in 24, Saul is hunting David and walks into the cave in which David is hiding. Saul wants to “cover his feet.”
- In 26, Saul is in a camp with his soldiers. No one wakes because the LORD has placed them in a sound sleep. Providence.
- If you are in a cave, you are not forgotten. The LORD sees where you are, and He is not surprised. Also know that there is no cave deep enough to hide from the LORD. Come out into His light.
- Has there been a place in your life where the providence of God has been arranging something in a way that you only understood later?
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- In 26, Saul confesses, I have sinned. I will not harm you again. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.
- Saul goes home. David does not go with Saul. Saul has remorse, temporarily. Saul has felt the pain of being caught, but not the grief of having offended God.
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- In 26:23, David trusts the LORD to repay each man for his righteousness and faithfulness. David does not say that he deserves to be rewarded. David says that it is the LORD who repays. David has put his case in the hands of the LORD.
- In 26:24, David prays for the life of Saul to be highly valued in the sight of the LORD.
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Conclusion: There is a Greater David.

- There is a king who cannot stop hunting. There is a cave and a camp where the hunter is put into the hunted man’s hands.
- There are voices that says, “God has given him to you.”
- David’s response: The LORD forbid. David appeals to the highest judge. David’s refuge is the LORD.
- Saul’s response: a confession that never become repentance.
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Prayer Request: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org
 Pastor Larry: PastorLarry@OurMDC.org

Information: Info@OurMDC.org

Office Location: 1641 Bixler Rd., Discovery Bay
 Mailing: PO Box 1667,
 Discovery Bay, CA 94505
 Church phone: (925) 354-1096



Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, October 25, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *The River*

Build Your Kingdom Here

Announcements for Sunday 10/25/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- The Pool is closed for the season.
- Please pickup your Operation Christmas Child boxes in the Carport. Last day to return completed boxes will be Sunday, Nov. 22nd at the Church.
- Time to get ready for our annual Christmas Tree Sales. We will have 100 trees to sell, and we need volunteers for **General Lot Help, Meals, and Tree Delivery**. Please see Adriana Wray for any questions and signup in the Carport.
- *** Reminder *** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Sat. night 10/31 before you go to bed.
- If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

Thank You for your Offerings!!

To Donate:

OFFERING BOXES – In Back

ONLINE

Go To: www.OurMDC.org

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Mariner's Discovery Church

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or **CALL THE OFFICE** - (925) 354-1096

Adoration *Glorious Day*

Scripture Reading from selected verses; 1 Samuel 24 and 1 Samuel 26

Message: *Hiding from the King*

Affirmation: *No Fear*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Chapter 24 David Spares Saul's Life

24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

12 "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

20 "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Chapter 26 David Again Spares Saul

26:2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. **8**

Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?"

10 David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."

23 “The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

24 “Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Devotional: Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say,
“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

1 Samuel 18: David’s rise breeds Saul’s jealousy

- Jonathan’s covenant love for David (18:1,3-4).
- Saul’s jealousy begins (18:7-9).

A heart resisting God produces jealousy when the blessings of God rest on someone else.

- Saul attempts to destroy David (18:10-12, 21).
- Saul’s response is not to yield but to harden. Knowing is not the same things as submitting. When have we seen this before?

A heart full of fear when estranged from God can be the fruit of seeing the favor of God on another.

1 Samuel 19: Saul’s hostility, David’s narrow escapes.

- Jonathan’s Intercession Secures a Reprieve (19:1, 4, 6)
- There is renewed violence in Saul’s house.
- Michal’s deception saves David’s life (19:12).

God works through imperfect people and ordinary means to preserve His purposes.

- David’s flight to Samuel, Spirit’s unexpected work (19:18, 23-24).

Divine intervention: The LORD restrains king Saul.

1 Samuel 20: Saul rages, Jonathan covenants with David.

- David’s appeal (What is my iniquity), plan to test Saul (20:1, 3, 17)
- Jonathan cannot believe that his father really wants to kill David.
- Test: go home for New Moon festival (family commitment).
- Jonathan makes David vow again with the LORD as witness.
- Saul rages, exposes his rejection of David (20:31-33).
- The final farewell and renewed oath (20:41-42).

Unrepented sin does not stay contained. Saul’s resentment towards David now becomes resentment towards his son.

The Story: compare and contrast

- Responding to God’s chosen king:
 - Saul responds with wounded pride (18:8,9), fear (18:12), manipulation (18:21), murder attempts (19:1, 10), to a rage that turns on his own son.
 - Jonathan responds with covenant love (18:1-4), costly intercession (19:4), loyalty that surrenders his own claim and asks for mercy on his house (20:14-17, 42).
- The LORD is ever present in the narrative:
 - The LORD is with David (18:12, 28)
 - The LORD restrains Saul’s messengers and Saul at Naioth (19:23-24).

- The LORD is invoked as the witness Who will stand between the descendants of two friends forever (20:42).
- All of those point to David's greater Son.

Theological Implications:

1. God is sovereign as seen in the preservation of His anointed.
2. Jealousy can be evidence of spiritual corruption.
3. Covenant love is a costly loyalty to the purposes of God.
4. The Spirit has a restraining power over those who resist Him.
5. There is a difference between temporary remorse and repentance.
6. Covenant mercy outlives its makers.
7. This is a foreshadowing of the rejected and vindicated King.

Takeaways:

- Bring envy/ jealousy to light early. Ask honestly what is rising in you and why. Confess it and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart that can rejoice in what God is doing in others.
- Do not mistake pressured promises for repentance. Ask God for the deeper change that outlasts the moment. Invite accountability for additional resolve.
- Teach/ influence others to celebrate other's success.
- Cultivate leadership character in others that are like Jonathan who make room for those whom God is raising up.
- Find opportunities to find your Jonathan or be a Jonathan for others.
- When dealing with ungodly opposition, or persecution, trust the God Who preserved David through every scheme. Keep doing the next right thing/ step and seek out the faithful friend who will stand with you.

1 Samuel 21

- David flees Saul and arrives at Nob, where he lies to the priest Ahimelech, claiming a secret errand for the king.
- Ahimelech gives him the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword.
- Doeg the Edomite is present and watches it all.
- David escapes to Gath, fears for his life, and pretends to be insane before King Achish, who sends him away.
- He escaped by pretending to be insane before King Achish, highlighting both his desperation and God's provision during his flight.

1 Samuel 22

- David hides in the cave of Adullam, where about four hundred distressed and discontented men gather to him.
- Doeg tells Saul that Ahimelech helped David.
- Saul's own guards refuse to strike the priests, so Doeg kills eighty-five of them and destroys Nob.
- Abiathar alone escapes to David, who takes responsibility for the tragedy and promises him protection.
- This reveals Saul's growing wickedness and David's emergence as a leader and protector.

1 Samuel 23

- David inquires of the LORD and rescues Keilah from the Philistines.

- He learns the townspeople would hand him over to Saul, so he flees with about six hundred men.
- Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, strengthens his faith in God, and renews their covenant.
- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who nearly traps him at Maon until a Philistine raid calls Saul away.
- The chapter emphasizes God's guidance, protection, and faithfulness throughout David's wilderness trials.

1 Samuel 24

- Saul takes 3,000 chosen men to pursue David in the wilderness of En Gedi.
- Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men are hiding inside.
- David's men urge him to kill Saul, but he only cuts off a corner of the robe.
- David's conscience troubles him because Saul is the LORD's anointed.
- David calls out to Saul, bows, and shows the robe piece as proof of his innocence.
- David leaves judgment between them to the LORD.
- Saul weeps, admits David is more righteous, and acknowledges David will be king.
- David swears not to cut off Saul's descendants, and the two part ways.

1 Samuel 25

- After Samuel dies, David's men ask the wealthy Nabal for provisions in return for protecting his shepherds, and Nabal insults them.
- David sets out with four hundred men to kill every male in Nabal's house.
- Abigail meets him with food and persuades him not to take vengeance with his own hand.
- David blesses God for keeping him from bloodguilt.
- Soon afterward the Lord struck Nabal dead, demonstrating God's providence and reinforcing the lesson that David should trust God rather than seize justice for himself, and David marries Abigail.

1 Samuel 26

- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who takes 3,000 men to the wilderness of Ziph to find him.
- David and Abishai slip into Saul's camp at night and find the king asleep with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
- The whole camp sleeps under a deep sleep from the LORD.
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- David takes only the spear and water jar, and leaves.
- From a distant hilltop, David rebukes Abner for failing to guard his king and holds up the spear as proof.
- Saul admits his sin and blesses David.
- David returns the spear and entrusts his life to the LORD's deliverance.

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Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, October 25, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *The River*

Build Your Kingdom Here

Announcements for Sunday 10/25/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- The Pool is closed for the season.
- Please pickup your Operation Christmas Child boxes in the Carport. Last day to return completed boxes will be Sunday, Nov. 22nd at the Church.
- Time to get ready for our annual Christmas Tree Sales. We will have 100 trees to sell, and we need volunteers for **General Lot Help, Meals, and Tree Delivery**. Please see Adriana Wray for any questions and signup in the Carport.
- *** Reminder *** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Sat. night 10/31 before you go to bed.
- If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

Thank You for your Offerings!!

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Adoration *Glorious Day*

Scripture Reading from selected verses; 1 Samuel 24 and 1 Samuel 26

Message: *Hiding from the King*

Affirmation: *No Fear*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Chapter 24 David Spares Saul's Life

24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

12 "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

20 "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Chapter 26 David Again Spares Saul

26:2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. **8**

Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?"

10 David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."

23 “The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

24 “Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Devotional: Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

1 Samuel 18: David’s rise breeds Saul’s jealousy

- Jonathan’s covenant love for David (18:1,3-4).
- Saul’s jealousy begins (18:7-9).

A heart resisting God produces jealousy when the blessings of God rest on someone else.

- Saul attempts to destroy David (18:10-12, 21).
- Saul’s response is not to yield but to harden. Knowing is not the same things as submitting. When have we seen this before?

A heart full of fear when estranged from God can be the fruit of seeing the favor of God on another.

1 Samuel 19: Saul’s hostility, David’s narrow escapes.

- Jonathan’s Intercession Secures a Reprieve (19:1, 4, 6)
- There is renewed violence in Saul’s house.
- Michal’s deception saves David’s life (19:12).

God works through imperfect people and ordinary means to preserve His purposes.

- David’s flight to Samuel, Spirit’s unexpected work (19:18, 23-24).

Divine intervention: The LORD restrains king Saul.

1 Samuel 20: Saul rages, Jonathan covenants with David.

- David’s appeal (What is my iniquity), plan to test Saul (20:1, 3, 17)
- Jonathan cannot believe that his father really wants to kill David.
- Test: go home for New Moon festival (family commitment).
- Jonathan makes David vow again with the LORD as witness.
- Saul rages, exposes his rejection of David (20:31-33).
- The final farewell and renewed oath (20:41-42).

Unrepented sin does not stay contained. Saul’s resentment towards David now becomes resentment towards his son.

The Story: compare and contrast

- Responding to God’s chosen king:
 - Saul responds with wounded pride (18:8,9), fear (18:12), manipulation (18:21), murder attempts (19:1, 10), to a rage that turns on his own son.
 - Jonathan responds with covenant love (18:1-4), costly intercession (19:4), loyalty that surrenders his own claim and asks for mercy on his house (20:14-17, 42).
- The LORD is ever present in the narrative:
 - The LORD is with David (18:12, 28)
 - The LORD restrains Saul’s messengers and Saul at Naioth (19:23-24).

- The LORD is invoked as the witness Who will stand between the descendants of two friends forever (20:42).
- All of those point to David's greater Son.

Theological Implications:

1. God is sovereign as seen in the preservation of His anointed.
2. Jealousy can be evidence of spiritual corruption.
3. Covenant love is a costly loyalty to the purposes of God.
4. The Spirit has a restraining power over those who resist Him.
5. There is a difference between temporary remorse and repentance.
6. Covenant mercy outlives its makers.
7. This is a foreshadowing of the rejected and vindicated King.

Takeaways:

- Bring envy/ jealousy to light early. Ask honestly what is rising in you and why. Confess it and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart that can rejoice in what God is doing in others.
- Do not mistake pressured promises for repentance. Ask God for the deeper change that outlasts the moment. Invite accountability for additional resolve.
- Teach/ influence others to celebrate other's success.
- Cultivate leadership character in others that are like Jonathan who make room for those whom God is raising up.
- Find opportunities to find your Jonathan or be a Jonathan for others.
- When dealing with ungodly opposition, or persecution, trust the God Who preserved David through every scheme. Keep doing the next right thing/ step and seek out the faithful friend who will stand with you.

1 Samuel 21

- David flees Saul and arrives at Nob, where he lies to the priest Ahimelech, claiming a secret errand for the king.
- Ahimelech gives him the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword.
- Doeg the Edomite is present and watches it all.
- David escapes to Gath, fears for his life, and pretends to be insane before King Achish, who sends him away.
- He escaped by pretending to be insane before King Achish, highlighting both his desperation and God's provision during his flight.

1 Samuel 22

- David hides in the cave of Adullam, where about four hundred distressed and discontented men gather to him.
- Doeg tells Saul that Ahimelech helped David.
- Saul's own guards refuse to strike the priests, so Doeg kills eighty-five of them and destroys Nob.
- Abiathar alone escapes to David, who takes responsibility for the tragedy and promises him protection.
- This reveals Saul's growing wickedness and David's emergence as a leader and protector.

1 Samuel 23

- David inquires of the LORD and rescues Keilah from the Philistines.

- He learns the townspeople would hand him over to Saul, so he flees with about six hundred men.
- Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, strengthens his faith in God, and renews their covenant.
- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who nearly traps him at Maon until a Philistine raid calls Saul away.
- The chapter emphasizes God's guidance, protection, and faithfulness throughout David's wilderness trials.

1 Samuel 24

- Saul takes 3,000 chosen men to pursue David in the wilderness of En Gedi.
- Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men are hiding inside.
- David's men urge him to kill Saul, but he only cuts off a corner of the robe.
- David's conscience troubles him because Saul is the LORD's anointed.
- David calls out to Saul, bows, and shows the robe piece as proof of his innocence.
- David leaves judgment between them to the LORD.
- Saul weeps, admits David is more righteous, and acknowledges David will be king.
- David swears not to cut off Saul's descendants, and the two part ways.

1 Samuel 25

- After Samuel dies, David's men ask the wealthy Nabal for provisions in return for protecting his shepherds, and Nabal insults them.
- David sets out with four hundred men to kill every male in Nabal's house.
- Abigail meets him with food and persuades him not to take vengeance with his own hand.
- David blesses God for keeping him from bloodguilt.
- Soon afterward the Lord struck Nabal dead, demonstrating God's providence and reinforcing the lesson that David should trust God rather than seize justice for himself, and David marries Abigail.

1 Samuel 26

- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who takes 3,000 men to the wilderness of Ziph to find him.
- David and Abishai slip into Saul's camp at night and find the king asleep with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
- The whole camp sleeps under a deep sleep from the LORD.
- Abishai urges David to let him strike Saul, but David refuses to harm the LORD's anointed.
- David takes only the spear and water jar, and leaves.
- From a distant hilltop, David rebukes Abner for failing to guard his king and holds up the spear as proof.
- Saul admits his sin and blesses David.
- David returns the spear and entrusts his life to the LORD's deliverance.

The Hunted: A King Who Cannot Stop Hunting (24:2; 26:2)

- Saul takes 3,000 elite soldiers for the hunt of David. Israel is facing the Philistines, yet Saul has turned his best men against the one man who has been the Philistines' greatest enemy. This is backwards!
- Saul's weakness: envy driven by insecurity. The LORD has moved on, Saul has not.

- Herod hunts the infant Jesus Christ (greater David), sending soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem under 2 years old (Matthew 2:16).
- Jesus Christ was hunted by the religious establishment, who should have recognized Him.

The Hidden: Providence in the Dark (24:3; 26:3, 7, 12)

- Irony: in 24, Saul is hunting David and walks into the cave in which David is hiding. Saul wants to “cover his feet.”
- In 26, Saul is in a camp with his soldiers. No one wakes because the LORD has placed them in a sound sleep. Providence.
- If you are in a cave, you are not forgotten. The LORD sees where you are, and He is not surprised. Also know that there is no cave deep enough to hide from the LORD. Come out into His light.
- Has there been a place in your life where the providence of God has been arranging something in a way that you only understood later?
- Can you keep a “providence journal” when you see God’s hand?

The Whispers: Voices Saying “God Has Given Him to You” (24:4; 26:8)

- In 24, David’s men claim the LORD has given the enemy to David.
- In 26, Abishai says the LORD has delivered your enemy.
- Both voices sound spiritual, using the name of the LORD.
 - They read circumstances as a sign. Both voices are wrong.
 - They are not evil. This is how the tempter works.
 - The promise to David does not give permission to seize the throne.
- Have someone told you that your circumstances are the voice of God for you, but you suspect it is not true. Or maybe you have been misled? Come to the Savior who forgives and restores.
- How would you respond to someone who says, “God opened this door, so it must be His will”?
- Do you have a “Paul” in your life who can tell you hard truths and invite that person into your next significant decision?

The Restraint: “The LORD’s Anointed” (24:5–7; 26:9–11)

- In 24, David has the chance. His men are urging him. The enemy is helpless. David cuts Saul’s robe. Heart-stricken, says “Saul is the LORD’s anointed.”
- In 26, David says one cannot strike the LORD’s anointed and be guilt-free. God has plenty of ways to remove a king, and none of them requires David’s hand. David trusts God’s methods and God’s timing.
- Waiting is not weakness. Others may want action. David wanted obedience and was willing to trust.
- Is there someone against whom you are holding a grudge today? Come to the LORD now and lay it down. This is not easy. God can do what you can’t.
- Whom do you most struggle to leave in God’s hands, and what keeps you from releasing the situation to Him?
- Can you write the name of a person who has wronged you, and pray for that person daily for the next thirty days, as Jesus commanded (Matt 5:44).

The Appeal: Proof of Innocence from a Safe Distance (24:8, 10, 12)

- In 24, David calls out after Saul, “My Lord the king!” David bows. David makes his case with the cut robe corner. I was close enough to cut this, I could have killed you. There is no evil or rebellion in my hands.
- May the LORD judge between you and me. David appeals to a higher court.
- This is a pattern for every believer who has been slandered, mistreated, or falsely accused. First, tell the truth. Second, speak with respect. Third, refuse to retaliate. Fourth, leave the verdict with God. This is what Jesus Christ did on the cross (1 Peter 2:23).
- If you have been falsely accused, or treated unjustly, can you hand your case to the Lord? He is a better advocate and judge.
- When you have been wronged, do you tend to retaliate, withdraw, or entrust the matter to God? What is the reason?
- How can you speak the truth in love, like Jesus, without sinning in your anger (Ephesians 4:26).

The Confession: Saul Sees but Does Not Change (24:16–17, 20; 26:17, 21)

- In 24, Saul asks if it is David. Saul weeps. Saul says, “You are more righteous than I, for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. Now I know you will be king. Saul is confessing David’s righteousness, his own wickedness, and God’s will.
- In 26, Saul confesses, I have sinned. I will not harm you again. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.
- Saul goes home. David does not go with Saul. Saul has remorse, temporarily. Saul has felt the pain of being caught, but not the grief of having offended God.
- Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians draws the distinction between the sorrow of the world and the repentance that leads to salvation. Jesus want more than your tears.
- If you have been convicted of something, been sorry, but have not turned, today is the day to bring it to the altar, and ask for the gift of repentance. Ask for the new heart that God promises. Do not mistake feeling bad for being forgiven.
- Is there a sin in your life that is particularly besetting, what would a real turn look like?
- Is there a difference for you between being sorry for the consequences of sin and being sorry for offending God?

The Refuge: The Lord Rewards Righteousness (26:23–25)

- In 26:23, David trusts the LORD to repay each man for his righteousness and faithfulness. David does not say that he deserves to be rewarded. David says that it is the LORD who repays. David has put his case in the hands of the LORD.
- In 26:24, David prays for the life of Saul to be highly valued in the sight of the LORD.
- David has not won a military victory, nor has he been vindicated. David is still a fugitive. What has David gained? He has kept his hands clean, and his heart in the LORD. His refuge was the LORD (not the cave). See Psalm 57. David was still hunted. David was not afraid. David knew where he was hidden.
- Colossians 3:3 “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
- Where are you hiding today (busyness, anger, addictions, religious performance)? None can shelter you from the ONE who sees all. Come to the only true refuge.
- What does it mean to you that your life is “hidden with Christ in God”?

- Can you read Psalm 57 and Psalm 142 aloud once a day this week and personalize them as your own prayer?
- Can you identify the “hiding places” to which you run and ask them to replace them with His presence?
- Can you reach out to someone who is in a “cave season” right now, and share one promise from Scripture with them?

Element	1 Samuel 24 (the cave)	1 Samuel 26 (the camp)
The hunt	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (24:2)	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (26:2)
The exposure	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase
The whisper	David's men say God has handed him his enemy (24:4)	Abishai says God has handed him his enemy (26:8)
The refusal	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (24:6)	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (26:9)
The proof	David brings a token (the robe corner) to show he spared Saul	David brings tokens (spear and water jug) to show he spared Saul
Confession and blessing	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (24:16–20)	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (26:21, 25)
The parting	Saul goes home; David stays in the wilderness (24:22)	Saul returns to his place; David goes his way (26:25)

Conclusion: There is a Greater David.

- There is a king who cannot stop hunting. There is a cave and a camp where the hunter is put into the hunted man’s hands.
- There are voices that says, “God has given him to you.”
- David’s response: The LORD forbid. David appeals to the highest judge. David’s refuge is the LORD.
- Saul’s response: a confession that never become repentance.
- David is a good example, but he is not the final answer. David fails later. David’s story points to a Greater David: The Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ was hunted by a threatened king, just as David was. Jesus was hated without cause, as David was. Jesus did not merely refuse to stretch out His hand against His enemies. Jesus stretched out His hands on a cross for them and prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
- Are you, or someone you know, hiding from God? Or are you, or someone you know, hiding in Christ and needs encouragement about that?

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

Prayer Request: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org
 Pastor Larry: PastorLarry@OurMDC.org

Information: Info@OurMDC.org

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- Bring envy/ jealousy to light early. Ask honestly what is rising in you and why. Confess it and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart that can rejoice in what God is doing in others.
- Do not mistake pressured promises for repentance. Ask God for the deeper change that outlasts the moment. Invite accountability for additional resolve.
- Teach/ influence others to celebrate other's success.
- Cultivate leadership character in others that are like Jonathan who make room for those whom God is raising up.
- Find opportunities to find your Jonathan or be a Jonathan for others.
- When dealing with ungodly opposition, or persecution, trust the God Who preserved David through every scheme. Keep doing the next right thing/ step and seek out the faithful friend who will stand with you.

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- David flees Saul and arrives at Nob, where he lies to the priest Ahimelech, claiming a secret errand for the king.
- Ahimelech gives him the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword.
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- David escapes to Gath, fears for his life, and pretends to be insane before King Achish, who sends him away.
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- Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, strengthens his faith in God, and renews their covenant.
- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who nearly traps him at Maon until a Philistine raid calls Saul away.
- The chapter emphasizes God's guidance, protection, and faithfulness throughout David's wilderness trials.

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- Saul takes 3,000 chosen men to pursue David in the wilderness of En Gedi.
- Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men are hiding inside.
- David's men urge him to kill Saul, but he only cuts off a corner of the robe.
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- David blesses God for keeping him from bloodguilt.
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- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who takes 3,000 men to the wilderness of Ziph to find him.
- David and Abishai slip into Saul's camp at night and find the king asleep with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
- The whole camp sleeps under a deep sleep from the LORD.
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- From a distant hilltop, David rebukes Abner for failing to guard his king and holds up the spear as proof.
- Saul admits his sin and blesses David.
- David returns the spear and entrusts his life to the LORD's deliverance.

The Hunted: A King Who Cannot Stop Hunting (24:2; 26:2)

- Saul takes 3,000 elite soldiers for the hunt of David. Israel is facing the Philistines, yet Saul has turned his best men against the one man who has been the Philistines' greatest enemy. This is backwards!
- Saul's weakness: envy driven by insecurity. The LORD has moved on, Saul has not.

- Herod hunts the infant Jesus Christ (greater David), sending soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem under 2 years old (Matthew 2:16).
- Jesus Christ was hunted by the religious establishment, who should have recognized Him.

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- Irony: in 24, Saul is hunting David and walks into the cave in which David is hiding. Saul wants to “cover his feet.”
- In 26, Saul is in a camp with his soldiers. No one wakes because the LORD has placed them in a sound sleep. Providence.
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- Has there been a place in your life where the providence of God has been arranging something in a way that you only understood later?
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- Waiting is not weakness. Others may want action. David wanted obedience and was willing to trust.
- Is there someone against whom you are holding a grudge today? Come to the LORD now and lay it down. This is not easy. God can do what you can’t.
- Whom do you most struggle to leave in God’s hands, and what keeps you from releasing the situation to Him?
- Can you write the name of a person who has wronged you, and pray for that person daily for the next thirty days, as Jesus commanded (Matt 5:44).

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- If you have been falsely accused, or treated unjustly, can you hand your case to the Lord? He is a better advocate and judge.
- When you have been wronged, do you tend to retaliate, withdraw, or entrust the matter to God? What is the reason?
- How can you speak the truth in love, like Jesus, without sinning in your anger (Ephesians 4:26).

The Confession: Saul Sees but Does Not Change (24:16–17, 20; 26:17, 21)

- In 24, Saul asks if it is David. Saul weeps. Saul says, “You are more righteous than I, for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. Now I know you will be king. Saul is confessing David’s righteousness, his own wickedness, and God’s will.
- In 26, Saul confesses, I have sinned. I will not harm you again. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.
- Saul goes home. David does not go with Saul. Saul has remorse, temporarily. Saul has felt the pain of being caught, but not the grief of having offended God.
- Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians draws the distinction between the sorrow of the world and the repentance that leads to salvation. Jesus want more than your tears.
- If you have been convicted of something, been sorry, but have not turned, today is the day to bring it to the altar, and ask for the gift of repentance. Ask for the new heart that God promises. Do not mistake feeling bad for being forgiven.
- Is there a sin in your life that is particularly besetting, what would a real turn look like?
- Is there a difference for you between being sorry for the consequences of sin and being sorry for offending God?

The Refuge: The Lord Rewards Righteousness (26:23–25)

- In 26:23, David trusts the LORD to repay each man for his righteousness and faithfulness. David does not say that he deserves to be rewarded. David says that it is the LORD who repays. David has put his case in the hands of the LORD.
- In 26:24, David prays for the life of Saul to be highly valued in the sight of the LORD.
- David has not won a military victory, nor has he been vindicated. David is still a fugitive. What has David gained? He has kept his hands clean, and his heart in the LORD. His refuge was the LORD (not the cave). See Psalm 57. David was still hunted. David was not afraid. David knew where he was hidden.
- Colossians 3:3 “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
- Where are you hiding today (busyness, anger, addictions, religious performance)? None can shelter you from the ONE who sees all. Come to the only true refuge.
- What does it mean to you that your life is “hidden with Christ in God”?

- Can you read Psalm 57 and Psalm 142 aloud once a day this week and personalize them as your own prayer?
- Can you identify the “hiding places” to which you run and ask them to replace them with His presence?
- Can you reach out to someone who is in a “cave season” right now, and share one promise from Scripture with them?

Element	1 Samuel 24 (the cave)	1 Samuel 26 (the camp)
The hunt	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (24:2)	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (26:2)
The exposure	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase
The whisper	David's men say God has handed him his enemy (24:4)	Abishai says God has handed him his enemy (26:8)
The refusal	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (24:6)	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (26:9)
The proof	David brings a token (the robe corner) to show he spared Saul	David brings tokens (spear and water jug) to show he spared Saul
Confession and blessing	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (24:16–20)	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (26:21, 25)
The parting	Saul goes home; David stays in the wilderness (24:22)	Saul returns to his place; David goes his way (26:25)

Conclusion: There is a Greater David.

- There is a king who cannot stop hunting. There is a cave and a camp where the hunter is put into the hunted man’s hands.
- There are voices that says, “God has given him to you.”
- David’s response: The LORD forbid. David appeals to the highest judge. David’s refuge is the LORD.
- Saul’s response: a confession that never become repentance.
- David is a good example, but he is not the final answer. David fails later. David’s story points to a Greater David: The Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ was hunted by a threatened king, just as David was. Jesus was hated without cause, as David was. Jesus did not merely refuse to stretch out His hand against His enemies. Jesus stretched out His hands on a cross for them and prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
- Are you, or someone you know, hiding from God? Or are you, or someone you know, hiding in Christ and needs encouragement about that?

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

Prayer Request: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org
 Pastor Larry: PastorLarry@OurMDC.org

Information: Info@OurMDC.org

Office Location: 1641 Bixler Rd., Discovery Bay
 Mailing: PO Box 1667,
 Discovery Bay, CA 94505
 Church phone: (925) 354-1096



Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, October 25, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *The River*

Build Your Kingdom Here

Announcements for Sunday 10/25/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- The Pool is closed for the season.
- Please pickup your Operation Christmas Child boxes in the Carport. Last day to return completed boxes will be Sunday, Nov. 22nd at the Church.
- Time to get ready for our annual Christmas Tree Sales. We will have 100 trees to sell, and we need volunteers for **General Lot Help, Meals, and Tree Delivery**. Please see Adriana Wray for any questions and signup in the Carport.
- *** Reminder *** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Sat. night 10/31 before you go to bed.
- If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

Thank You for your Offerings!!

To Donate:

OFFERING BOXES – In Back

ONLINE

Go To: www.OurMDC.org

BY MAIL

Mariner's Discovery Church

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Discovery Bay, CA. 94505

or **CALL THE OFFICE - (925) 354-1096**

Adoration *Glorious Day*

Scripture Reading from selected verses; 1 Samuel 24 and 1 Samuel 26

Message: *Hiding from the King*

Affirmation: *No Fear*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Chapter 24 David Spares Saul's Life

24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

12 "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

20 "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Chapter 26 David Again Spares Saul

26:2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. **8**

Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?"

10 David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."

23 “The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

24 “Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Devotional: Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

1 Samuel 18: David’s rise breeds Saul’s jealousy

- Jonathan’s covenant love for David (18:1,3-4).
- Saul’s jealousy begins (18:7-9).

A heart resisting God produces jealousy when the blessings of God rest on someone else.

- Saul attempts to destroy David (18:10-12, 21).
- Saul’s response is not to yield but to harden. Knowing is not the same things as submitting. When have we seen this before?

A heart full of fear when estranged from God can be the fruit of seeing the favor of God on another.

1 Samuel 19: Saul’s hostility, David’s narrow escapes.

- Jonathan’s Intercession Secures a Reprieve (19:1, 4, 6)
- There is renewed violence in Saul’s house.
- Michal’s deception saves David’s life (19:12).

God works through imperfect people and ordinary means to preserve His purposes.

- David’s flight to Samuel, Spirit’s unexpected work (19:18, 23-24).

Divine intervention: The LORD restrains king Saul.

1 Samuel 20: Saul rages, Jonathan covenants with David.

- David’s appeal (What is my iniquity), plan to test Saul (20:1, 3, 17)
- Jonathan cannot believe that his father really wants to kill David.
- Test: go home for New Moon festival (family commitment).
- Jonathan makes David vow again with the LORD as witness.
- Saul rages, exposes his rejection of David (20:31-33).
- The final farewell and renewed oath (20:41-42).

Unrepented sin does not stay contained. Saul’s resentment towards David now becomes resentment towards his son.

The Story: compare and contrast

- Responding to God’s chosen king:
 - Saul responds with wounded pride (18:8,9), fear (18:12), manipulation (18:21), murder attempts (19:1, 10), to a rage that turns on his own son.
 - Jonathan responds with covenant love (18:1-4), costly intercession (19:4), loyalty that surrenders his own claim and asks for mercy on his house (20:14-17, 42).
- The LORD is ever present in the narrative:
 - The LORD is with David (18:12, 28)
 - The LORD restrains Saul’s messengers and Saul at Naioth (19:23-24).

- The LORD is invoked as the witness Who will stand between the descendants of two friends forever (20:42).
- All of those point to David's greater Son.

Theological Implications:

1. God is sovereign as seen in the preservation of His anointed.
2. Jealousy can be evidence of spiritual corruption.
3. Covenant love is a costly loyalty to the purposes of God.
4. The Spirit has a restraining power over those who resist Him.
5. There is a difference between temporary remorse and repentance.
6. Covenant mercy outlives its makers.
7. This is a foreshadowing of the rejected and vindicated King.

Takeaways:

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- If you have been convicted of something, been sorry, but have not turned, today is the day to bring it to the altar, and ask for the gift of repentance. Ask for the new heart that God promises. Do not mistake feeling bad for being forgiven.
- Is there a sin in your life that is particularly besetting, what would a real turn look like?
- Is there a difference for you between being sorry for the consequences of sin and being sorry for offending God?

The Refuge: The Lord Rewards Righteousness (26:23–25)

- In 26:23, David trusts the LORD to repay each man for his righteousness and faithfulness. David does not say that he deserves to be rewarded. David says that it is the LORD who repays. David has put his case in the hands of the LORD.
- In 26:24, David prays for the life of Saul to be highly valued in the sight of the LORD.
- David has not won a military victory, nor has he been vindicated. David is still a fugitive. What has David gained? He has kept his hands clean, and his heart in the LORD. His refuge was the LORD (not the cave). See Psalm 57. David was still hunted. David was not afraid. David knew where he was hidden.
- Colossians 3:3 “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
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Conclusion: There is a Greater David.

- There is a king who cannot stop hunting. There is a cave and a camp where the hunter is put into the hunted man’s hands.
- There are voices that says, “God has given him to you.”
- David’s response: The LORD forbid. David appeals to the highest judge. David’s refuge is the LORD.
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3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

12 "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

20 "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Chapter 26 David Again Spares Saul

26:2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. **8**

Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?"

10 David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."

23 “The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

24 “Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Devotional: Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

1 Samuel 18: David’s rise breeds Saul’s jealousy

- Jonathan’s covenant love for David (18:1,3-4).
- Saul’s jealousy begins (18:7-9).

A heart resisting God produces jealousy when the blessings of God rest on someone else.

- Saul attempts to destroy David (18:10-12, 21).
- Saul’s response is not to yield but to harden. Knowing is not the same things as submitting. When have we seen this before?

A heart full of fear when estranged from God can be the fruit of seeing the favor of God on another.

1 Samuel 19: Saul’s hostility, David’s narrow escapes.

- Jonathan’s Intercession Secures a Reprieve (19:1, 4, 6)
- There is renewed violence in Saul’s house.
- Michal’s deception saves David’s life (19:12).

God works through imperfect people and ordinary means to preserve His purposes.

- David’s flight to Samuel, Spirit’s unexpected work (19:18, 23-24).

Divine intervention: The LORD restrains king Saul.

1 Samuel 20: Saul rages, Jonathan covenants with David.

- David’s appeal (What is my iniquity), plan to test Saul (20:1, 3, 17)
- Jonathan cannot believe that his father really wants to kill David.
- Test: go home for New Moon festival (family commitment).
- Jonathan makes David vow again with the LORD as witness.
- Saul rages, exposes his rejection of David (20:31-33).
- The final farewell and renewed oath (20:41-42).

Unrepented sin does not stay contained. Saul’s resentment towards David now becomes resentment towards his son.

The Story: compare and contrast

- Responding to God’s chosen king:
 - Saul responds with wounded pride (18:8,9), fear (18:12), manipulation (18:21), murder attempts (19:1, 10), to a rage that turns on his own son.
 - Jonathan responds with covenant love (18:1-4), costly intercession (19:4), loyalty that surrenders his own claim and asks for mercy on his house (20:14-17, 42).
- The LORD is ever present in the narrative:
 - The LORD is with David (18:12, 28)
 - The LORD restrains Saul’s messengers and Saul at Naioth (19:23-24).

- The LORD is invoked as the witness Who will stand between the descendants of two friends forever (20:42).
- All of those point to David's greater Son.

Theological Implications:

1. God is sovereign as seen in the preservation of His anointed.
2. Jealousy can be evidence of spiritual corruption.
3. Covenant love is a costly loyalty to the purposes of God.
4. The Spirit has a restraining power over those who resist Him.
5. There is a difference between temporary remorse and repentance.
6. Covenant mercy outlives its makers.
7. This is a foreshadowing of the rejected and vindicated King.

Takeaways:

- Bring envy/ jealousy to light early. Ask honestly what is rising in you and why. Confess it and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart that can rejoice in what God is doing in others.
- Do not mistake pressured promises for repentance. Ask God for the deeper change that outlasts the moment. Invite accountability for additional resolve.
- Teach/ influence others to celebrate other's success.
- Cultivate leadership character in others that are like Jonathan who make room for those whom God is raising up.
- Find opportunities to find your Jonathan or be a Jonathan for others.
- When dealing with ungodly opposition, or persecution, trust the God Who preserved David through every scheme. Keep doing the next right thing/ step and seek out the faithful friend who will stand with you.

1 Samuel 21

- David flees Saul and arrives at Nob, where he lies to the priest Ahimelech, claiming a secret errand for the king.
- Ahimelech gives him the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword.
- Doeg the Edomite is present and watches it all.
- David escapes to Gath, fears for his life, and pretends to be insane before King Achish, who sends him away.
- He escaped by pretending to be insane before King Achish, highlighting both his desperation and God's provision during his flight.

1 Samuel 22

- David hides in the cave of Adullam, where about four hundred distressed and discontented men gather to him.
- Doeg tells Saul that Ahimelech helped David.
- Saul's own guards refuse to strike the priests, so Doeg kills eighty-five of them and destroys Nob.
- Abiathar alone escapes to David, who takes responsibility for the tragedy and promises him protection.
- This reveals Saul's growing wickedness and David's emergence as a leader and protector.

1 Samuel 23

- David inquires of the LORD and rescues Keilah from the Philistines.

- He learns the townspeople would hand him over to Saul, so he flees with about six hundred men.
- Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, strengthens his faith in God, and renews their covenant.
- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who nearly traps him at Maon until a Philistine raid calls Saul away.
- The chapter emphasizes God's guidance, protection, and faithfulness throughout David's wilderness trials.

1 Samuel 24

- Saul takes 3,000 chosen men to pursue David in the wilderness of En Gedi.
- Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men are hiding inside.
- David's men urge him to kill Saul, but he only cuts off a corner of the robe.
- David's conscience troubles him because Saul is the LORD's anointed.
- David calls out to Saul, bows, and shows the robe piece as proof of his innocence.
- David leaves judgment between them to the LORD.
- Saul weeps, admits David is more righteous, and acknowledges David will be king.
- David swears not to cut off Saul's descendants, and the two part ways.

1 Samuel 25

- After Samuel dies, David's men ask the wealthy Nabal for provisions in return for protecting his shepherds, and Nabal insults them.
- David sets out with four hundred men to kill every male in Nabal's house.
- Abigail meets him with food and persuades him not to take vengeance with his own hand.
- David blesses God for keeping him from bloodguilt.
- Soon afterward the Lord struck Nabal dead, demonstrating God's providence and reinforcing the lesson that David should trust God rather than seize justice for himself, and David marries Abigail.

1 Samuel 26

- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who takes 3,000 men to the wilderness of Ziph to find him.
- David and Abishai slip into Saul's camp at night and find the king asleep with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
- The whole camp sleeps under a deep sleep from the LORD.
- Abishai urges David to let him strike Saul, but David refuses to harm the LORD's anointed.
- David takes only the spear and water jar, and leaves.
- From a distant hilltop, David rebukes Abner for failing to guard his king and holds up the spear as proof.
- Saul admits his sin and blesses David.
- David returns the spear and entrusts his life to the LORD's deliverance.

The Hunted: A King Who Cannot Stop Hunting (24:2; 26:2)

- Saul takes 3,000 elite soldiers for the hunt of David. Israel is facing the Philistines, yet Saul has turned his best men against the one man who has been the Philistines' greatest enemy. This is backwards!
- Saul's weakness: envy driven by insecurity. The LORD has moved on, Saul has not.

- Herod hunts the infant Jesus Christ (greater David), sending soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem under 2 years old (Matthew 2:16).
- Jesus Christ was hunted by the religious establishment, who should have recognized Him.

The Hidden: Providence in the Dark (24:3; 26:3, 7, 12)

- Irony: in 24, Saul is hunting David and walks into the cave in which David is hiding. Saul wants to “cover his feet.”
- In 26, Saul is in a camp with his soldiers. No one wakes because the LORD has placed them in a sound sleep. Providence.
- If you are in a cave, you are not forgotten. The LORD sees where you are, and He is not surprised. Also know that there is no cave deep enough to hide from the LORD. Come out into His light.
- Has there been a place in your life where the providence of God has been arranging something in a way that you only understood later?
- Can you keep a “providence journal” when you see God’s hand?

The Whispers: Voices Saying “God Has Given Him to You” (24:4; 26:8)

- In 24, David’s men claim the LORD has given the enemy to David.
- In 26, Abishai says the LORD has delivered your enemy.
- Both voices sound spiritual, using the name of the LORD.
 - They read circumstances as a sign. Both voices are wrong.
 - They are not evil. This is how the tempter works.
 - The promise to David does not give permission to seize the throne.
- Have someone told you that your circumstances are the voice of God for you, but you suspect it is not true. Or maybe you have been misled? Come to the Savior who forgives and restores.
- How would you respond to someone who says, “God opened this door, so it must be His will”?
- Do you have a “Paul” in your life who can tell you hard truths and invite that person into your next significant decision?

The Restraint: “The LORD’s Anointed” (24:5–7; 26:9–11)

- In 24, David has the chance. His men are urging him. The enemy is helpless. David cuts Saul’s robe. Heart-stricken, says “Saul is the LORD’s anointed.”
- In 26, David says one cannot strike the LORD’s anointed and be guilt-free. God has plenty of ways to remove a king, and none of them requires David’s hand. David trusts God’s methods and God’s timing.
- Waiting is not weakness. Others may want action. David wanted obedience and was willing to trust.
- Is there someone against whom you are holding a grudge today? Come to the LORD now and lay it down. This is not easy. God can do what you can’t.
- Whom do you most struggle to leave in God’s hands, and what keeps you from releasing the situation to Him?
- Can you write the name of a person who has wronged you, and pray for that person daily for the next thirty days, as Jesus commanded (Matt 5:44).

The Appeal: Proof of Innocence from a Safe Distance (24:8, 10, 12)

- In 24, David calls out after Saul, “My Lord the king!” David bows. David makes his case with the cut robe corner. I was close enough to cut this, I could have killed you. There is no evil or rebellion in my hands.
- May the LORD judge between you and me. David appeals to a higher court.
- This is a pattern for every believer who has been slandered, mistreated, or falsely accused. First, tell the truth. Second, speak with respect. Third, refuse to retaliate. Fourth, leave the verdict with God. This is what Jesus Christ did on the cross (1 Peter 2:23).
- If you have been falsely accused, or treated unjustly, can you hand your case to the Lord? He is a better advocate and judge.
- When you have been wronged, do you tend to retaliate, withdraw, or entrust the matter to God? What is the reason?
- How can you speak the truth in love, like Jesus, without sinning in your anger (Ephesians 4:26).

The Confession: Saul Sees but Does Not Change (24:16–17, 20; 26:17, 21)

- In 24, Saul asks if it is David. Saul weeps. Saul says, “You are more righteous than I, for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. Now I know you will be king. Saul is confessing David’s righteousness, his own wickedness, and God’s will.
- In 26, Saul confesses, I have sinned. I will not harm you again. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.
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10 David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."

23 “The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

24 “Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Devotional: Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

1 Samuel 18: David’s rise breeds Saul’s jealousy

- Jonathan’s covenant love for David (18:1,3-4).
- Saul’s jealousy begins (18:7-9).

A heart resisting God produces jealousy when the blessings of God rest on someone else.

- Saul attempts to destroy David (18:10-12, 21).
- Saul’s response is not to yield but to harden. Knowing is not the same things as submitting. When have we seen this before?

A heart full of fear when estranged from God can be the fruit of seeing the favor of God on another.

1 Samuel 19: Saul’s hostility, David’s narrow escapes.

- Jonathan’s Intercession Secures a Reprieve (19:1, 4, 6)
- There is renewed violence in Saul’s house.
- Michal’s deception saves David’s life (19:12).

God works through imperfect people and ordinary means to preserve His purposes.

- David’s flight to Samuel, Spirit’s unexpected work (19:18, 23-24).

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- David’s appeal (What is my iniquity), plan to test Saul (20:1, 3, 17)
- Jonathan cannot believe that his father really wants to kill David.
- Test: go home for New Moon festival (family commitment).
- Jonathan makes David vow again with the LORD as witness.
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- The final farewell and renewed oath (20:41-42).

Unrepented sin does not stay contained. Saul’s resentment towards David now becomes resentment towards his son.

The Story: compare and contrast

- Responding to God’s chosen king:
 - Saul responds with wounded pride (18:8,9), fear (18:12), manipulation (18:21), murder attempts (19:1, 10), to a rage that turns on his own son.
 - Jonathan responds with covenant love (18:1-4), costly intercession (19:4), loyalty that surrenders his own claim and asks for mercy on his house (20:14-17, 42).
- The LORD is ever present in the narrative:
 - The LORD is with David (18:12, 28)
 - The LORD restrains Saul’s messengers and Saul at Naioth (19:23-24).

- The LORD is invoked as the witness Who will stand between the descendants of two friends forever (20:42).
- All of those point to David's greater Son.

Theological Implications:

1. God is sovereign as seen in the preservation of His anointed.
2. Jealousy can be evidence of spiritual corruption.
3. Covenant love is a costly loyalty to the purposes of God.
4. The Spirit has a restraining power over those who resist Him.
5. There is a difference between temporary remorse and repentance.
6. Covenant mercy outlives its makers.
7. This is a foreshadowing of the rejected and vindicated King.

Takeaways:

- Bring envy/ jealousy to light early. Ask honestly what is rising in you and why. Confess it and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart that can rejoice in what God is doing in others.
- Do not mistake pressured promises for repentance. Ask God for the deeper change that outlasts the moment. Invite accountability for additional resolve.
- Teach/ influence others to celebrate other's success.
- Cultivate leadership character in others that are like Jonathan who make room for those whom God is raising up.
- Find opportunities to find your Jonathan or be a Jonathan for others.
- When dealing with ungodly opposition, or persecution, trust the God Who preserved David through every scheme. Keep doing the next right thing/ step and seek out the faithful friend who will stand with you.

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- David flees Saul and arrives at Nob, where he lies to the priest Ahimelech, claiming a secret errand for the king.
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- Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, strengthens his faith in God, and renews their covenant.
- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who nearly traps him at Maon until a Philistine raid calls Saul away.
- The chapter emphasizes God's guidance, protection, and faithfulness throughout David's wilderness trials.

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- Saul takes 3,000 chosen men to pursue David in the wilderness of En Gedi.
- Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men are hiding inside.
- David's men urge him to kill Saul, but he only cuts off a corner of the robe.
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- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who takes 3,000 men to the wilderness of Ziph to find him.
- David and Abishai slip into Saul's camp at night and find the king asleep with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
- The whole camp sleeps under a deep sleep from the LORD.
- Abishai urges David to let him strike Saul, but David refuses to harm the LORD's anointed.
- David takes only the spear and water jar, and leaves.
- From a distant hilltop, David rebukes Abner for failing to guard his king and holds up the spear as proof.
- Saul admits his sin and blesses David.
- David returns the spear and entrusts his life to the LORD's deliverance.

The Hunted: A King Who Cannot Stop Hunting (24:2; 26:2)

- Saul takes 3,000 elite soldiers for the hunt of David. Israel is facing the Philistines, yet Saul has turned his best men against the one man who has been the Philistines' greatest enemy. This is backwards!
- Saul's weakness: envy driven by insecurity. The LORD has moved on, Saul has not.

- Herod hunts the infant Jesus Christ (greater David), sending soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem under 2 years old (Matthew 2:16).
- Jesus Christ was hunted by the religious establishment, who should have recognized Him.

The Hidden: Providence in the Dark (24:3; 26:3, 7, 12)

- Irony: in 24, Saul is hunting David and walks into the cave in which David is hiding. Saul wants to “cover his feet.”
- In 26, Saul is in a camp with his soldiers. No one wakes because the LORD has placed them in a sound sleep. Providence.
- If you are in a cave, you are not forgotten. The LORD sees where you are, and He is not surprised. Also know that there is no cave deep enough to hide from the LORD. Come out into His light.
- Has there been a place in your life where the providence of God has been arranging something in a way that you only understood later?
- Can you keep a “providence journal” when you see God’s hand?

The Whispers: Voices Saying “God Has Given Him to You” (24:4; 26:8)

- In 24, David’s men claim the LORD has given the enemy to David.
- In 26, Abishai says the LORD has delivered your enemy.
- Both voices sound spiritual, using the name of the LORD.
 - They read circumstances as a sign. Both voices are wrong.
 - They are not evil. This is how the tempter works.
 - The promise to David does not give permission to seize the throne.
- Have someone told you that your circumstances are the voice of God for you, but you suspect it is not true. Or maybe you have been misled? Come to the Savior who forgives and restores.
- How would you respond to someone who says, “God opened this door, so it must be His will”?
- Do you have a “Paul” in your life who can tell you hard truths and invite that person into your next significant decision?

The Restraint: “The LORD’s Anointed” (24:5–7; 26:9–11)

- In 24, David has the chance. His men are urging him. The enemy is helpless. David cuts Saul’s robe. Heart-stricken, says “Saul is the LORD’s anointed.”
- In 26, David says one cannot strike the LORD’s anointed and be guilt-free. God has plenty of ways to remove a king, and none of them requires David’s hand. David trusts God’s methods and God’s timing.
- Waiting is not weakness. Others may want action. David wanted obedience and was willing to trust.
- Is there someone against whom you are holding a grudge today? Come to the LORD now and lay it down. This is not easy. God can do what you can’t.
- Whom do you most struggle to leave in God’s hands, and what keeps you from releasing the situation to Him?
- Can you write the name of a person who has wronged you, and pray for that person daily for the next thirty days, as Jesus commanded (Matt 5:44).

The Appeal: Proof of Innocence from a Safe Distance (24:8, 10, 12)

- In 24, David calls out after Saul, “My Lord the king!” David bows. David makes his case with the cut robe corner. I was close enough to cut this, I could have killed you. There is no evil or rebellion in my hands.
- May the LORD judge between you and me. David appeals to a higher court.
- This is a pattern for every believer who has been slandered, mistreated, or falsely accused. First, tell the truth. Second, speak with respect. Third, refuse to retaliate. Fourth, leave the verdict with God. This is what Jesus Christ did on the cross (1 Peter 2:23).
- If you have been falsely accused, or treated unjustly, can you hand your case to the Lord? He is a better advocate and judge.
- When you have been wronged, do you tend to retaliate, withdraw, or entrust the matter to God? What is the reason?
- How can you speak the truth in love, like Jesus, without sinning in your anger (Ephesians 4:26).

The Confession: Saul Sees but Does Not Change (24:16–17, 20; 26:17, 21)

- In 24, Saul asks if it is David. Saul weeps. Saul says, “You are more righteous than I, for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. Now I know you will be king. Saul is confessing David’s righteousness, his own wickedness, and God’s will.
- In 26, Saul confesses, I have sinned. I will not harm you again. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.
- Saul goes home. David does not go with Saul. Saul has remorse, temporarily. Saul has felt the pain of being caught, but not the grief of having offended God.
- Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians draws the distinction between the sorrow of the world and the repentance that leads to salvation. Jesus want more than your tears.
- If you have been convicted of something, been sorry, but have not turned, today is the day to bring it to the altar, and ask for the gift of repentance. Ask for the new heart that God promises. Do not mistake feeling bad for being forgiven.
- Is there a sin in your life that is particularly besetting, what would a real turn look like?
- Is there a difference for you between being sorry for the consequences of sin and being sorry for offending God?

The Refuge: The Lord Rewards Righteousness (26:23–25)

- In 26:23, David trusts the LORD to repay each man for his righteousness and faithfulness. David does not say that he deserves to be rewarded. David says that it is the LORD who repays. David has put his case in the hands of the LORD.
- In 26:24, David prays for the life of Saul to be highly valued in the sight of the LORD.
- David has not won a military victory, nor has he been vindicated. David is still a fugitive. What has David gained? He has kept his hands clean, and his heart in the LORD. His refuge was the LORD (not the cave). See Psalm 57. David was still hunted. David was not afraid. David knew where he was hidden.
- Colossians 3:3 “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
- Where are you hiding today (busyness, anger, addictions, religious performance)? None can shelter you from the ONE who sees all. Come to the only true refuge.
- What does it mean to you that your life is “hidden with Christ in God”?

- Can you read Psalm 57 and Psalm 142 aloud once a day this week and personalize them as your own prayer?
- Can you identify the “hiding places” to which you run and ask them to replace them with His presence?
- Can you reach out to someone who is in a “cave season” right now, and share one promise from Scripture with them?

Element	1 Samuel 24 (the cave)	1 Samuel 26 (the camp)
The hunt	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (24:2)	Saul takes 3,000 chosen men after David (26:2)
The exposure	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase	Saul is helpless and David could end the chase
The whisper	David's men say God has handed him his enemy (24:4)	Abishai says God has handed him his enemy (26:8)
The refusal	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (24:6)	David will not stretch out his hand against “the LORD’s anointed” (26:9)
The proof	David brings a token (the robe corner) to show he spared Saul	David brings tokens (spear and water jug) to show he spared Saul
Confession and blessing	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (24:16–20)	Saul admits wrong, calls David “my son,” and predicts David’s success (26:21, 25)
The parting	Saul goes home; David stays in the wilderness (24:22)	Saul returns to his place; David goes his way (26:25)

Conclusion: There is a Greater David.

- There is a king who cannot stop hunting. There is a cave and a camp where the hunter is put into the hunted man’s hands.
- There are voices that says, “God has given him to you.”
- David’s response: The LORD forbid. David appeals to the highest judge. David’s refuge is the LORD.
- Saul’s response: a confession that never become repentance.
- David is a good example, but he is not the final answer. David fails later. David’s story points to a Greater David: The Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ was hunted by a threatened king, just as David was. Jesus was hated without cause, as David was. Jesus did not merely refuse to stretch out His hand against His enemies. Jesus stretched out His hands on a cross for them and prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
- Are you, or someone you know, hiding from God? Or are you, or someone you know, hiding in Christ and needs encouragement about that?

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

Prayer Request: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org
 Pastor Larry: PastorLarry@OurMDC.org

Information: Info@OurMDC.org

Office Location: 1641 Bixler Rd., Discovery Bay
 Mailing: PO Box 1667,
 Discovery Bay, CA 94505
 Church phone: (925) 354-1096



Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, October 25, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *The River*

Build Your Kingdom Here

Announcements for Sunday 10/25/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- The Pool is closed for the season.
- Please pickup your Operation Christmas Child boxes in the Carport. Last day to return completed boxes will be Sunday, Nov. 22nd at the Church.
- Time to get ready for our annual Christmas Tree Sales. We will have 100 trees to sell, and we need volunteers for **General Lot Help, Meals, and Tree Delivery**. Please see Adriana Wray for any questions and signup in the Carport.
- *** Reminder *** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Sat. night 10/31 before you go to bed.
- If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

Thank You for your Offerings!!

To Donate:

OFFERING BOXES – In Back

ONLINE

Go To: www.OurMDC.org

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Mariner's Discovery Church

P.O. Box 1667

Discovery Bay, CA. 94505

or CALL THE OFFICE - (925) 354-1096

Adoration *Glorious Day*

Scripture Reading from selected verses; 1 Samuel 24 and 1 Samuel 26

Message: *Hiding from the King*

Affirmation: *No Fear*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Chapter 24 David Spares Saul's Life

24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

12 "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

20 "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Chapter 26 David Again Spares Saul

26:2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. **8** Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."

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- Saul takes 3,000 elite soldiers for the hunt of David. Israel is facing the Philistines, yet Saul has turned his best men against the one man who has been the Philistines' greatest enemy. This is backwards!
- Saul's weakness: envy driven by insecurity. The LORD has moved on, Saul has not.

- Herod hunts the infant Jesus Christ (greater David), sending soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem under 2 years old (Matthew 2:16).
- Jesus Christ was hunted by the religious establishment, who should have recognized Him.

The Hidden: Providence in the Dark (24:3; 26:3, 7, 12)

- Irony: in 24, Saul is hunting David and walks into the cave in which David is hiding. Saul wants to “cover his feet.”
- In 26, Saul is in a camp with his soldiers. No one wakes because the LORD has placed them in a sound sleep. Providence.
- If you are in a cave, you are not forgotten. The LORD sees where you are, and He is not surprised. Also know that there is no cave deep enough to hide from the LORD. Come out into His light.
- Has there been a place in your life where the providence of God has been arranging something in a way that you only understood later?
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- Waiting is not weakness. Others may want action. David wanted obedience and was willing to trust.
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- Whom do you most struggle to leave in God’s hands, and what keeps you from releasing the situation to Him?
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- In 26, Saul confesses, I have sinned. I will not harm you again. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.
- Saul goes home. David does not go with Saul. Saul has remorse, temporarily. Saul has felt the pain of being caught, but not the grief of having offended God.
- Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians draws the distinction between the sorrow of the world and the repentance that leads to salvation. Jesus want more than your tears.
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- Is there a sin in your life that is particularly besetting, what would a real turn look like?
- Is there a difference for you between being sorry for the consequences of sin and being sorry for offending God?

The Refuge: The Lord Rewards Righteousness (26:23–25)

- In 26:23, David trusts the LORD to repay each man for his righteousness and faithfulness. David does not say that he deserves to be rewarded. David says that it is the LORD who repays. David has put his case in the hands of the LORD.
- In 26:24, David prays for the life of Saul to be highly valued in the sight of the LORD.
- David has not won a military victory, nor has he been vindicated. David is still a fugitive. What has David gained? He has kept his hands clean, and his heart in the LORD. His refuge was the LORD (not the cave). See Psalm 57. David was still hunted. David was not afraid. David knew where he was hidden.
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Conclusion: There is a Greater David.

- There is a king who cannot stop hunting. There is a cave and a camp where the hunter is put into the hunted man’s hands.
- There are voices that says, “God has given him to you.”
- David’s response: The LORD forbid. David appeals to the highest judge. David’s refuge is the LORD.
- Saul’s response: a confession that never become repentance.
- David is a good example, but he is not the final answer. David fails later. David’s story points to a Greater David: The Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ was hunted by a threatened king, just as David was. Jesus was hated without cause, as David was. Jesus did not merely refuse to stretch out His hand against His enemies. Jesus stretched out His hands on a cross for them and prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
- Are you, or someone you know, hiding from God? Or are you, or someone you know, hiding in Christ and needs encouragement about that?

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

Prayer Request: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org
 Pastor Larry: PastorLarry@OurMDC.org

Information: Info@OurMDC.org

Office Location: 1641 Bixler Rd., Discovery Bay
 Mailing: PO Box 1667,
 Discovery Bay, CA 94505
 Church phone: (925) 354-1096



Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, October 25, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *The River*

Build Your Kingdom Here

Announcements for Sunday 10/25/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- The Pool is closed for the season.
- Please pickup your Operation Christmas Child boxes in the Carport. Last day to return completed boxes will be Sunday, Nov. 22nd at the Church.
- Time to get ready for our annual Christmas Tree Sales. We will have 100 trees to sell, and we need volunteers for **General Lot Help, Meals, and Tree Delivery**. Please see Adriana Wray for any questions and signup in the Carport.
- *** Reminder *** Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Sat. night 10/31 before you go to bed.
- If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

Thank You for your Offerings!!

To Donate:

OFFERING BOXES – In Back

ONLINE

Go To: www.OurMDC.org

BY MAIL

Mariner's Discovery Church

P.O. Box 1667

Discovery Bay, CA. 94505

or **CALL THE OFFICE - (925) 354-1096**

Adoration *Glorious Day*

Scripture Reading from selected verses; 1 Samuel 24 and 1 Samuel 26

Message: *Hiding from the King*

Affirmation: *No Fear*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Chapter 24 David Spares Saul's Life

24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

12 "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

20 "Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Chapter 26 David Again Spares Saul

26:2 So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having with him three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3 Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, beside the road, and David was staying in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. **8** Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?"

10 David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish.

11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside Saul's head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

17 Then Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord the king."

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error."

23 “The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

24 “Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress.”

25 Then Saul said to David, “Blessed are you, my son David; you will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Devotional: Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

1 Samuel 18: David’s rise breeds Saul’s jealousy

- Jonathan’s covenant love for David (18:1,3-4).
- Saul’s jealousy begins (18:7-9).

A heart resisting God produces jealousy when the blessings of God rest on someone else.

- Saul attempts to destroy David (18:10-12, 21).
- Saul’s response is not to yield but to harden. Knowing is not the same things as submitting. When have we seen this before?

A heart full of fear when estranged from God can be the fruit of seeing the favor of God on another.

1 Samuel 19: Saul’s hostility, David’s narrow escapes.

- Jonathan’s Intercession Secures a Reprieve (19:1, 4, 6)
- There is renewed violence in Saul’s house.
- Michal’s deception saves David’s life (19:12).

God works through imperfect people and ordinary means to preserve His purposes.

- David’s flight to Samuel, Spirit’s unexpected work (19:18, 23-24).

Divine intervention: The LORD restrains king Saul.

1 Samuel 20: Saul rages, Jonathan covenants with David.

- David’s appeal (What is my iniquity), plan to test Saul (20:1, 3, 17)
- Jonathan cannot believe that his father really wants to kill David.
- Test: go home for New Moon festival (family commitment).
- Jonathan makes David vow again with the LORD as witness.
- Saul rages, exposes his rejection of David (20:31-33).
- The final farewell and renewed oath (20:41-42).

Unrepented sin does not stay contained. Saul’s resentment towards David now becomes resentment towards his son.

The Story: compare and contrast

- Responding to God’s chosen king:
 - Saul responds with wounded pride (18:8,9), fear (18:12), manipulation (18:21), murder attempts (19:1, 10), to a rage that turns on his own son.
 - Jonathan responds with covenant love (18:1-4), costly intercession (19:4), loyalty that surrenders his own claim and asks for mercy on his house (20:14-17, 42).
- The LORD is ever present in the narrative:
 - The LORD is with David (18:12, 28)
 - The LORD restrains Saul’s messengers and Saul at Naioth (19:23-24).

- The LORD is invoked as the witness Who will stand between the descendants of two friends forever (20:42).
- All of those point to David's greater Son.

Theological Implications:

1. God is sovereign as seen in the preservation of His anointed.
2. Jealousy can be evidence of spiritual corruption.
3. Covenant love is a costly loyalty to the purposes of God.
4. The Spirit has a restraining power over those who resist Him.
5. There is a difference between temporary remorse and repentance.
6. Covenant mercy outlives its makers.
7. This is a foreshadowing of the rejected and vindicated King.

Takeaways:

- Bring envy/ jealousy to light early. Ask honestly what is rising in you and why. Confess it and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart that can rejoice in what God is doing in others.
- Do not mistake pressured promises for repentance. Ask God for the deeper change that outlasts the moment. Invite accountability for additional resolve.
- Teach/ influence others to celebrate other's success.
- Cultivate leadership character in others that are like Jonathan who make room for those whom God is raising up.
- Find opportunities to find your Jonathan or be a Jonathan for others.
- When dealing with ungodly opposition, or persecution, trust the God Who preserved David through every scheme. Keep doing the next right thing/ step and seek out the faithful friend who will stand with you.

1 Samuel 21

- David flees Saul and arrives at Nob, where he lies to the priest Ahimelech, claiming a secret errand for the king.
- Ahimelech gives him the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword.
- Doeg the Edomite is present and watches it all.
- David escapes to Gath, fears for his life, and pretends to be insane before King Achish, who sends him away.
- He escaped by pretending to be insane before King Achish, highlighting both his desperation and God's provision during his flight.

1 Samuel 22

- David hides in the cave of Adullam, where about four hundred distressed and discontented men gather to him.
- Doeg tells Saul that Ahimelech helped David.
- Saul's own guards refuse to strike the priests, so Doeg kills eighty-five of them and destroys Nob.
- Abiathar alone escapes to David, who takes responsibility for the tragedy and promises him protection.
- This reveals Saul's growing wickedness and David's emergence as a leader and protector.

1 Samuel 23

- David inquires of the LORD and rescues Keilah from the Philistines.

- He learns the townspeople would hand him over to Saul, so he flees with about six hundred men.
- Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, strengthens his faith in God, and renews their covenant.
- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who nearly traps him at Maon until a Philistine raid calls Saul away.
- The chapter emphasizes God's guidance, protection, and faithfulness throughout David's wilderness trials.

1 Samuel 24

- Saul takes 3,000 chosen men to pursue David in the wilderness of En Gedi.
- Saul enters a cave to relieve himself, not knowing David and his men are hiding inside.
- David's men urge him to kill Saul, but he only cuts off a corner of the robe.
- David's conscience troubles him because Saul is the LORD's anointed.
- David calls out to Saul, bows, and shows the robe piece as proof of his innocence.
- David leaves judgment between them to the LORD.
- Saul weeps, admits David is more righteous, and acknowledges David will be king.
- David swears not to cut off Saul's descendants, and the two part ways.

1 Samuel 25

- After Samuel dies, David's men ask the wealthy Nabal for provisions in return for protecting his shepherds, and Nabal insults them.
- David sets out with four hundred men to kill every male in Nabal's house.
- Abigail meets him with food and persuades him not to take vengeance with his own hand.
- David blesses God for keeping him from bloodguilt.
- Soon afterward the Lord struck Nabal dead, demonstrating God's providence and reinforcing the lesson that David should trust God rather than seize justice for himself, and David marries Abigail.

1 Samuel 26

- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who takes 3,000 men to the wilderness of Ziph to find him.
- David and Abishai slip into Saul's camp at night and find the king asleep with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.
- The whole camp sleeps under a deep sleep from the LORD.
- Abishai urges David to let him strike Saul, but David refuses to harm the LORD's anointed.
- David takes only the spear and water jar, and leaves.
- From a distant hilltop, David rebukes Abner for failing to guard his king and holds up the spear as proof.
- Saul admits his sin and blesses David.
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