

★ THE ★ Value of INTEGRITY

More often than not, when we find ourselves in a compromising situation, we know what the right thing is to do. But doing the right thing is hard, and we might find ourselves cutting corners to get ahead. True integrity is less about choosing right and wrong, and more about choosing character and trust in God.

REFERENCE: 1 Samuel 24:1-13

THINKING POINTS

1. David is somewhere between the sheep pens and the throne. He is no longer where he was, but he isn't yet where he wants to be. In what ways can you relate to this?
2. The situation in the cave seems too good of an opportunity to pass up. What do you think of what David's friends said? Are they right?
3. The cues we are given by our friends and our culture can be not the most truthful. God had promised the throne to David, but not in the way they suggest. Where should we be taking our counsel from?
4. David cuts the corner off of Saul's robe and immediately feels guilty. Although he did not kill him, he did not do what he knew to be right. In verses 4 to 13, David chooses integrity, puts his own life on the line, and apologizes to Saul. Like cutting the corner from a robe, the seemingly little ways that we compromise our integrity make a big difference. **God had already promised David the whole king's robe, not just a corner of it... All David needed to do, was trust God to fulfil His promise.**

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." ² So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Craggs of the Wild Goats. ³ He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. ⁴ The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said^b to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

1 SAMUEL 24:1-4

5. We can always choose our response. We can choose the kind of person we want to be – we can give our character and integrity priority!

NEXT STEPS

1. How we get there is more important than where we come from, or where we are going.
2. Character is important, but so is our response when our character falls short.
3. It can seem like choosing integrity costs us something. But in reality, not choosing integrity costs us more. When we choose integrity and wait for God to fulfill His promises, we allow room for a story of His faithfulness in our lives.

Respond to hatred with love 🌟 Resist temptation; choose to be a difference maker.

Place your future in God's hands 🌟 As soon as David placed his trust in God, he was free to make decisions that supported his integrity, because his life was no longer his own to control and to worry about.

Own it and seek forgiveness 🌟 David made mistakes, but the Bible still records him as being “a man after God's own heart” because he kept asking forgiveness, he kept turning back to God and choosing integrity, even after his mistakes.