

# A Man After God's Own Heart

Week of January 4: 1 Samuel 24

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## Observation

1. Read 1 Samuel 24. What stands out to you in the text?

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2. What questions do you have?

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### Observation: What does it say?

1. What do you notice about the text?  
Things to look for:
  - repeating words and phrases
  - Answers to the questions: who, what, when, where and how?
  - contrasts and comparisons
  - similes and metaphors (images used in the text)
  - cause and effect relationships
  - details regarding: time, geography, place, people, action in the text
  - grammar
  - larger themes in the passage
  - key words and themes
2. What questions do you have?

# Interpretation

1. David did not kill Saul when he found him in the cave, and he was 'conscience-stricken' after cutting off a corner of Saul's robe. This is very different from his men's attitude that we see in verse 4. Why do you think that they viewed the situation differently?

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2. In 1 Samuel 16:7 the Lord tells Samuel that he looks at the heart, and in 13:14 Saul is told that his successor will be a 'man after his (God's) own heart.' How might this text help us to understand what this means?

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3. Do you find Saul's reaction surprising in verses 16-21? Why or why not? Why do you think that he responds in the way that he does?

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## Interpretation

The goal here is to answer questions raised by the text and to get at the central message of the passage itself.

What did the text mean for the original audience?

How might you summarize the central point of the passage?

## Application

1. How do you experience God speaking into your life? How does he remind you of the truth today? Share an example.
2. In our lives, where do we have a hard time trusting that God will bring about his purposes? How might we grow in trusting him more?

## Suggestion for Prayer

Pray for each other that God would help you grow in trusting in him with all areas of your life. Pray that he would open your eyes to where he is working in your lives.