

Decision Time

Pay Attention to the Tension

1 Samuel 24:1-15

"You promised," says one voice. "It's not that big of a deal," whispers the other voice. And there's the dilemma, the moral tension . . . a tension that left unattended or ignored could lead to some serious regrets.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a dilemma that you've recently faced. What made you decide to choose one option over the other?
2. Often, other people can make us aware of the tension in our decision-making. Who are the people in your life that you've given permission to ask you about those tensions?
3. Have you ever listened to your conscience and made a God-honoring decision that God did not seem to honor (i.e., things turned out worse for you)?
4. Read 1 Samuel 24. David listened to his conscience and chose to allow God to determine the outcome. In hindsight, when have you taken matters into your own hands and made a decision you now regret?
5. Read 1 Samuel 24:15. Seven chapters later, God finally delivers David from under Saul's reign and makes him king. What do you think was going on in David's mind during those seven chapters? What is a wise thing to keep in mind as you wait for God's "deliverance"?

Most of our decisions are saturated with emotion. And in some cases, those emotions become misguided passions . . . passions that cloud our ability to accurately evaluate circumstances. So, we must pay attention to our consciences, that small voice inside our heads that reminds us to make the right decision and to allow God to determine the outcome. Paying attention to the tension may be what keeps you from making a decision you'll regret.