David Hodges
GCBC 03/14/10
1 Samuel #25

"When Opportunity Knocks to Get Even . . . and Ahead"
I Sam. 24

(**3 speeches given:** David to his men, David to Saul, Saul to David)
1 2 3

David delivers Saul from his men (1-7)

*An unbelievable opportunity here—providence or presumption?
option 1, Slay Saul and relax--hastening his right to rule.
option 2, Spare Saul and stay put--hiding out for years perhaps.
any other option?
*David's respect for the "anointed" (24:10, 26:8-11, 2 Sam. 1:14).
*What else enabled David not to kill Saul?

David defends his innocence to Saul (8-15)

*Note his humility: bowing, tactfully suggesting he got bad advice, calls him "father," and refers to himself as a mere dead dog / flea.
*Proverb = If I were an evil fellow wanting to kill you I would have!
*This "outside-the-box" option is a calculated risk that Saul will be rational / honorable and spare David as he has just spared Saul.

Saul declares David's righteousness, repents and departs (16-22)

*Contrition: Saul weeps when confronted.
*Confession: "You are more righteous than I . . . I dealt wickedly"
Proverb = Nobody lets a sought-out enemy get away.
*Conclusion: "I know you will surely be king." Spare me (cf. 20:15)
*Though Saul's response seems genuine, he'll be back (26:1, 27:1) so David is right back where he was (golden opportunity is gone but he will be able to sleep at night w/o a guilty conscience).

Issues to consider:

+How would this episode and ch. 26 answer later Israelite doubts about how David came to the throne? See 2 Sam. 16:8

+How does David's response here fit with Mtt 4:1-11, as the Son of David is in the desert and offered shortcuts to gain a throne?

+How does David's response fit with Rom. 12:17-21?