

Recalculating: When Facing Opposition

Now the Lord said to Samuel, "I have rejected (Saul) as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go... Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king." When they arrived... the Lord said, "This is the one; anoint him." So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on.
[Excerpts] 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (NLT)

One day, Saul told his son Jonathan and his officers to kill David. But Jonathan liked David a lot, and he warned David, "My father is trying to have you killed, so be very careful."
1 Samuel 19:1-2 (CEV)

1. Expect Opposition (even "friendly fire")

One night, David was in Saul's home, playing the harp for him. Saul was sitting there, holding a spear, when an evil spirit from the Lord took control of him. Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear, but David dodged, and it stuck in the wall. David ran out of the house and escaped. Saul sent guards to watch David's house all night and then to kill him in the morning. Michal, David's wife, told him, "If you don't escape tonight, they'll kill you tomorrow!" She helped David go through a window and climb down to the ground.
1 Samuel 19:9-12 (CEV)

2. Don't Sacrifice Your Values to Preserve Your Dream

David went to see Ahimelech, a priest who lived in the town of Nob. "Why are you alone?" Ahimelech asked. "Why isn't anyone else with you?" "I'm on a mission for King Saul," David answered. "He ordered me not to tell anyone what the mission is all about, so I had my soldiers stay somewhere else. Do you have any food you can give me?" David asked Ahimelech, "Do you have a spear or a sword? I had to leave so quickly on this mission for the king that I

didn't bring along my sword or any other weapons. The priest answered, "The only sword here is the one that belonged to Goliath the Philistine. You were the one who killed him in Elah Valley, and so you can take his sword if you want to. "It's the best sword there is," David said. "I'll take it!" **[Excerpts] 1 Samuel 21:1-9 (CEV)**

**"It's never right to do wrong,
in order to get a chance to do right."**

"Ahimelech," Saul said, "you and your whole family are going to die." Saul shouted to his bodyguards, "These priests of the Lord helped David! They knew he was running away, but they didn't tell me. Kill them!" On that same day, Doeg killed eighty-five priests. Ahimelech's son Abiathar was the only one who escaped. He ran to David and told him, "Saul has murdered the priests at Nob!" David answered, "That day when I saw Doeg, I knew he would tell Saul! Your family died because of me.

[Excerpts] 1 Samuel 22:16-22 (CEV)

3. Consult God First

*David heard about Saul's plan to capture him, and he told Abiathar, "Let's ask God what we should do." David prayed... David stayed in hideouts in the hill country of Ziph Desert. Saul kept searching, but God never let Saul catch him. **1 Samuel 23:9-10, 14 (CEV)***

4. Prepare & Persist Until You're Promoted

After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of En-gedi. So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats. At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave! "Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today the Lord is telling you, 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.'" So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe.

He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn't attack the Lord's anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him." So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul. After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way, David came out and shouted after him, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him. Then he shouted to Saul, "Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? This very day you can see with your own eyes it isn't true. For the Lord placed you at my mercy back there in the cave. Some of my men told me to kill you, but I spared you. For I said, 'I will never harm the king—he is the Lord's anointed one.' Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn't kill you. This proves that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though you have been hunting for me to kill me."

1 Samuel 24:1-4, 6-11 (NLT)

*David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in all. **2 Samuel 5:4 (NLT)***