

# 1 Samuel 24:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

## Analysis

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**And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.**

Saul's emotional response reveals a soul momentarily pierced by conscience. The Hebrew interrogative 'haqolekha zeh' (is this thy voice) suggests disbelief—Saul cannot comprehend the mercy shown him. The address 'my son David' (beni David) uses familial language that acknowledges the relationship Saul's madness had denied. His weeping (Hebrew 'vayisa qolo vayyevk') involves 'lifting his voice,' indicating loud, convulsive sobbing. This public breakdown before his army reveals how completely David's restraint overwhelmed Saul's defenses. Yet tears of emotion differ from tears of repentance—Saul wept at David's goodness without truly repenting of his own evil.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern culture valued honor and shame. Saul's public weeping before his troops represented significant loss of composure. David's speech was delivered from a safe distance, and Saul's question suggests David was far enough that recognition required confirmation.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What distinguishes emotional response to conviction from genuine repentance?
2. How do you respond when someone shows you mercy you don't deserve?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּה יוֹ	כָּכָל אוֹת	וַיָּבֹא דָוִד	לְדַבֵּר	אֶת		
H1961	had made an end	And it came to pass when David	of speaking	H853		
	H3615	H1732	H1696			
הַדְּבָרִים	הָאֵל לָהּ	אֶל	שָׁא וּל	וַיֹּאמֶר	שָׁא וּל	קֵל וְ
these words	H428	H413	And Saul	said	And Saul	Is this thy voice
H1697			H7586	H559	H7586	H6963
בְּנִי יְהוָה		וַיָּבֹא דָוִד	וַיִּשָּׂא	שָׁא וּל	קֵל וְ	
H2088	my son	And it came to pass when David	lifted up	And Saul	Is this thy voice	
	H1121	H1732	H5375	H7586	H6963	
וַיִּבְכֶּה						
and wept						
H1058						

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 26:17** (Kingdom): And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king.

