

# 1 Samuel 26:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

## Analysis

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David's prayer establishes a principle of reciprocity: as he valued Saul's life, may the LORD value his. The Hebrew construction creates a direct correspondence between David's treatment of his enemy and his appeal for divine treatment. This anticipates Jesus' teaching: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy' (Matthew 5:7). David's plea to be delivered from 'all tribulation' (Hebrew: 'tsarah') acknowledges his ongoing vulnerability while expressing confidence in divine protection.

## Historical Context

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The reciprocity principle in prayer reflects ancient Near Eastern covenant thinking where actions toward others established expectations for how one would be treated. David's mercy toward Saul becomes the ground for his appeal to divine mercy.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does your treatment of others shape your confidence in approaching God?
2. What connection exists between extending mercy and receiving mercy in your experience?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהֵן הַ H2009	כְּאֵשׁ רַ H834	תִּגְדַּל לִ H1431	בְּפָשִׁי H5315	וְהֵן הַ H2088	הַ יּוֹם H3117
		be much set by	And behold as thy life		this day
בְּעֵינַי י H5869	יְ H3651	תִּגְדַּל לִ H1431	בְּפָשִׁי H5315	בְּעֵינַי י H5869	יְהוָה הַ H3068
in mine eyes		be much set by	And behold as thy life	in mine eyes	of the LORD
וַיַּצֵּל נִי H5337	מִכָּל H3605	צָרָה: H6869			
and let him deliver		me out of all tribulation			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 5:7** (Parallel theme): Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

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