



**Pay Attention to the Tension**  
**1 Samuel 24**  
**Message from Pastor Martin Hawley**  
**April 2, 2017**

**The Bottom Line: Pay attention to the tension. When faced with choices, pay attention to the moral and ethical tension.**

**Introduction:**

We are talking about the decisions that we are forced to make in life that we really do not want to make. These can be defining moments. In the emotional context that we find our self, we often do not know what hands in the balance. We often do not know how the decision will turn out.

In this series, I am giving you four questions to ask when faced with the surprise decision of life:

1. Am I being completely honest with myself?
2. What story do I want to tell?
3. Is there a tension that needs my attention?

**There are often moral/ethical issues associated with the options we consider.**

Most of the time, they are very subtle.

Sometimes we experience these as issues of conscience. Whispers in our mind. Hesitations in our spirit. Unexplainable uneasiness in our hearts.

Sometimes we miss them, and other people draw them to our attention. Sometimes they are apparent, but we don't want to use that filter for our decisions, and we play down the tension.

However, when there is a tension, even a small one, we should pay attention. It may be the thing that keeps you from doing something you will regret.

**David's Dilemma – 1 Samuel 24 (Lesson in Sermon)**

God takes full responsibility for the life wholly devoted to him.

**Conclusion:**

Life eventually surprises us all with decision-making dilemmas. When that happens, ask, "Am I being completely honest with myself? What story do I want to tell? Am I paying attention to the tension?"

When circumstances line up with our *wishes* and *desires*, it is hard not to act.

But circumstances are saturated with emotion. Emotion can become misguided passion.

Passion clouds our ability to accurately evaluate circumstances. So, we must pay attention to our consciences.

Pay attention to the tension.

It may be the thing that keeps you from making a decision you regret.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- ☐ **Memorize: 1 Samuel 24:15.**
- ☐ **Memorize: Question #3.**
- ☐ **When Faced with a Decision, Pay Attention to the Tension.**
- ☐ **Come Back Next Week for Question #4 (Conclusion).**