

26. Why is it a waste of time to try to get revenge on others?

27. To whom does revenge belong? (Read Romans 12:19)

III. RESTORE THE RELATIONSHIP(S). It is our responsibility to do what God says and it is His responsibility for the results. The Bible is very specific in the handling of personal relationships. David knew God's standards and adhered to them.

28. Why do you think Saul wept? What did Saul now call David? (Read 1 Samuel 24:16)

29. Who had given more respect to the other in this conversation – David to Saul or Saul to David? (Read 1 Samuel 24:8 vs 24:16)

30. Was this true repentance on Saul's part or a good politician's speech to serve the moment? Why?. (1 Samuel 24:17-20)

31. Who did Saul say should be king?

32. What favor did Saul request of David? Was this a selfish request? Do you think Saul would have granted David the same favor?

33. How did David restore the relationship? To whom had David already made this promise? (Read 1 Samuel 24:22)

34. How do you know that David believed this passage? (Read Proverbs 24:17-18)

35. Whose behavior was David responsible for? Whose behavior are you responsible for?

36. If we followed David's pattern for restoration of relationships, what difference would it make in our home? Church?

Second Baptist Church Sunday School Lessons Week 5 out of 18

THE TENDER WARRIOR, THE LIFE OF DAVID

1 Samuel 24

HOW TO TREAT YOUR ENEMY

All of us have seen the bumper sticker that reads: "I don't get back, I get even." And that's the attitude of society today. (Now, don't misunderstand. I am not talking about protecting our freedom and the rights of U.S. citizens when crimes are committed or acts of war have been perpetrated against us. That's a whole different issue.) Furthermore, if you want to test the spiritual level of a Christian, ask him or her, what you should do when your enemy is vulnerable. Unless they are men or women of God, they'll tell you to strike every time. David's example of how to handle your enemies is profound. His behavior towards Saul demonstrates even further David's desire to be the man God wanted him to be. We also find great wisdom on David's part as he faced his enemy. Great wisdom can always be found when a person leans on the Lord for direction.

1. Do you think that David had the right to take revenge on Saul?

2. What had Saul's jealousy cost David?

(Read 1 Samuel 23:25-29 and answer the following)

3. Instead of taking care of the King's business, what was Saul busy doing?

4. What made Saul stop chasing David for a while? Why do you suppose the Philistines thought this was a good time to attack?

5. While Saul was fighting the Philistines, where did David go hide?

En-gedi was an oasis on the west shore of the Dead Sea near the desert of Judah. It was a very good place to hide because the rough terrain and many limestone caves which faced ragged cliffs, and also because there was a spring located there. It is also reported that lush vegetation grew in the area. Although sheep were often kept there, it was still a very difficult area to reach. So David located his camp on the higher elevations of the cliffs. Now, he could feed his small army and have the advantage of watching out for his enemy.

I. REFUSE REVENGE If men had been writing the story of Saul and David, they would have had Saul killed in the battle with the Philistines as punishment for his chasing David. But God allowed Saul be victorious over the Philistines, and have another chance to snare David. God's ways are not man's ways.

6. What two things happened that caused Saul to resume his hunt for David? (Read 1 Samuel 24:1)
 7. Why should we not be discouraged when we see the wicked prosper? (Saul had been victorious in his pursuit of the Philistines.)
 8. How many soldiers did Saul take with him to hunt for David? What kind of military men were these? (Read 1 Samuel 24:2)
 9. How many men did David have? (Read 1 Samuel 23:13)
 10. Why did Saul go into the cave? Who was already living in the cave? Why do you think Saul did not see David and his men? (Think about when you are outside on a sunny day and then you go inside.) (Read 1 Samuel 24:3)
 11. Who told David to assassinate Saul? What did they tell him was the reason it was okay to kill Saul? (Read 1 Samuel 24:4)
 12. How hard do you think it was for David not to kill Saul?
- Note: Not only did these men dislike Saul intensely, but they also loved David so much they were willing to endure hardships to be with him.**
13. Instead of killing Saul, what did David do? (Read 1 Samuel 24:4)

14. Immediately, what happened to David? (Read 1 Samuel 24:5)

15. What does this verse say to you, 1 Peter 3:9?

II. RISK RECONCILIATION. Any time that you try to reconcile a relationship you take risks. David risked the trust of his own men and the retaliation of Saul. But David's tender conscience could not let this matter go on any longer.

16. Why did David refuse to kill Saul? Upon Whose words did he base his decision? (Read 1 Samuel 24:6)
17. What does this say to you about pastors, preachers and others in God's ministry? (Read Psalm 105:15)
18. As far as the opinion of his own men, what was David risking by not taking advantage of Saul? (Read 1 Samuel 24:7)
19. You can see the look on Saul's face at this point? How did David honor Saul? (Read 1 Samuel 24:7-8)
20. Did David face Saul himself or send someone else in his place? Who had been slandering David to Saul? (Read 1 Samuel 24:9)
21. How did David prove to Saul that he could have killed him? (Read 1 Samuel 24:10-11)
22. How did this prove that the things Saul had heard about David was not true?
23. Whom did David declare would settle the matter between Saul and David? (Read 1 Samuel 24:12-15)
24. How did David let Saul know he was wasting his time chasing him? (Read 1 Samuel 24:14)
25. If you have a problem with someone else, why is it important to talk with that person one-on-one first?

CONCLUSION: Because of Sin, mistreatment by others is inevitable. And because of sin, we naturally desire revenge when mistreated. If you have resentment right now in your heart about how someone has treated you, you have a way to rid yourself of that resentment – through forgiveness. You must ask God to forgive you of cultivating those revengeful feelings and thoughts(which are a sin). Next, you need to forgive the who does not deserve forgiveness. *After all, didn't Christ forgive you?* Finally, leave the whole matter with the Lord.

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