

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How did David prove himself to truly be a man of God?
2. How should we feel when our enemies fall? (Proverbs 24:17)
3. How did David look upon all his enemies? (Psalm 25:2)
4. What promise is there to those who love their enemies and do good to them that hate them? [SoF:12]

SUMMARY:

David, fleeing for his life from Saul with an army of three thousand men, hid in a cave. Saul came into this very cave to rest. When David's men discovered Saul they thought surely God had delivered Saul into David's hand to be slain. David refused to kill Saul or allow his men to do so, saying that it was against God's will to harm one anointed of the Lord.

Circumstance may indicate the leading of the Lord but here we have an example when this was not true. David did not allow circumstance or the persuasion of his friends to alter his complete obedience to the Lord. He knew that it was not God's will to harm the anointed of the Lord and was obedient to this teaching of God. David knew the alternative to revenge was love and that vengeance belongs to God. David also trusted God to fulfill His promises for David's life.

NOTES:

[SoF:12] We believe that government is ordained of God to enforce law and order and to prevent evil works. Government should, therefore, be supported and obeyed. Laws and ordinances are to be respected and conscientiously obeyed, except when to do so violates the commandment of God. The call to military service is also to be obeyed, but with the limitation to non-combatant service, as taught by Jesus Christ; "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you..."

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

August 6, 2023

Third Quarter

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

LESSON TEXT: *1 Samuel 24:1-22; Psalm 25:1-22*

LESSON SETTING: Saul enters the cave in which David and his men are hiding.

TIME: Approximately 1061 B.C.

I. OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE. 1 Samuel 24:1-8

- A. Evil Counsel (vs. 4) 1 Kings 12:9-11; Job 2:9
- B. Honor Rulers [SoF:12] (vs. 6) Exodus 22:28; Romans 13:1
- C. Good for Evil (vs. 7) Proverbs 25:21; Matthew 5:44

II. ALTERNATIVE TO REVENGE. 1 Samuel 24:9-22

- A. Forbearance (vs. 10) 1 Corinthians 13:7; Colossians 3:13
- B. Judgment Left to God (vs. 12, 15) Psalm 58:11; Matthew 7:1; James 4:12
- C. Vengeance Left to God (vs. 12) Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19-21
- D. Confession of Sin (vs. 17) Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9

III. PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE. Psalm 25:1-22

- A. Trust in God (vs. 2) Psalm 37:5; Isaiah 26:4
- B. Guidance Sought (vs. 4-5) Psalm 143:10; Acts 9:6
- C. Forgiveness Sought (vs. 7, 11, 18) Exodus 32:32; Numbers 14:19; Matthew 6:12

GOLDEN TEXT: *LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD TO THEM WHICH HATE YOU.*

Luke 6:27

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 Samuel 25:1-38; Psalm 14:1-7

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 18:23-35;
1 Corinthians 9:9-14;
Galatians 6:6

QUARTERLY THEME: Early Life of David

TOPIC: DAVID, NABAL AND ABIGAIL

INTRODUCTION:

David with his band had been in the wilderness, a fugitive from Saul. A common practice for such roving bands was to raid others for their needs. But David and his men had been honest and upright, as Nabal's men themselves testified (vs. 7, 15, 16). Moreover, they had provided a protecting wall against other enemies for Nabal's sheep.

Now at the time of sheep shearing, a festival occasion, David asked for a share in the feast for himself and his men.

But Nabal was "churlish (hard, harsh, sharp) and evil in his doings". (vs. 3) He was wealthy (vs. 2) but stingy. "Nabal" is the Hebrew word translated "fool" in Psalm 14:1 (and in eight other verses in the Bible). And **fool** he was.

"Abigail" (source or cause of delight) was a prudent and wise woman. Nabal was wrong and now David was prepared to respond with a terrible wrong himself. But Abigail's prompt action prevented it.

What kind of persons are we? Unloving, selfish, inconsiderate, foolish and evil like Nabal? Ready to hate, destroy and avenge others who treat us spitefully? Or prudent and filled with Godly wisdom like Abigail?

CENTRAL TRUTH: Children of God should demonstrate kindness and forgiveness.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM.* Psalm 111:10a

There is a wisdom in this world which may give us stature among men, but which hinders our relationship with God. ". . . not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." (1 Corinthians 1:26)

"Woe unto them that are wise in their **own** eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (Isaiah 5:21) So "wise" that God is not **needed**. The cross and the **way** of the cross seem but foolishness! (1 Corinthians 1:17-26) To acknowledge and surrender to a Greater One seems ridiculous. And to trust by faith in an all wise Creator and Redeemer? Incomprehensible!

But the truly wise have learned to know the Fount of Wisdom. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." To ignore God, to reject Him or to refuse to acknowledge Him as our only LORD AND SAVIOR, is foolish indeed.

". . . the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that **doeth the will** of God abideth forever." (1 John 2:17)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF August 7 – 13

Mon. *Nabal's Churlish Nature. 1 Samuel 25:1-11
Tue. *Abigail's Wise Action. 1 Samuel 25:12-20
Wed. *Abigail's Wise Advice. 1 Samuel 25:23-35
Thu. *God's Recompense. 1 Samuel 25:36-42
Fri. Jesus' Advice About Forgiving. Matthew 18:23-35
Sat. *The Foolish Man. Psalm 14:1-7
Sun. The Wisdom of Good Speaking. Proverbs 14:1-13

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