

Love Your Enemy Through Respect

What We'll Learn in This Series:

1. Your character is seen in how you treat your enemies.
2. Those who you perceive to be enemies may be the people who help shape you more than anyone.
3. All Christ-followers should be known for loving their enemies.

What About Enemies?

"When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today." - 1 Samuel 24:19

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."
- Luke 6:27

The Place:

"After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, 'David is in the Desert of En Gedi.'" So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave." - 1 Samuel 24:1-3

Saul couldn't distinguish his enemies from his friends.

Saul hated David a lot! (3000 chosen men!)

Saul had to use the bathroom!

David just happened to be in the same cave.

The Opportunity:

"The men said, 'This is the day the LORD spoke of when He said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, 'The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master the LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD.'" With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way." - 1 Samuel 24:4-7

David's men saw the slaying of Saul as God's plan.

David simply wanted proof of God's will but later regretted even cutting the King's robe.

David had great respect for his "master" and for the position that God had given Saul. (Remember he was also a son-in-law.)

David protected Saul from his men and allowed him to escape.

The Respect:

"Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, 'My lord the king!'"
When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He said to Saul, 'Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you''? This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD's anointed.'
See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you. "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May He consider my cause and uphold it; may He vindicate me by delivering me from your hand." - 1 Samuel 24:8-15

David called to the king in respect and prostrated himself before him.

He asked the king to be reasonable.

He showed Saul the piece of the robe and the opportunity he had.

He explained that he was no threat and appealed to the king.

The Response from Saul:

"When David finished saying this, Saul asked, 'Is that your voice, David my son?'"
And he wept aloud. "You are more righteous than I," he said. "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. You have just now told me of the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today. I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."
So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold." - 1 Samuel 24:16-22

Saul seemed truly touched by David's words and actions.

He blessed David for his kindness.

He made a request for his descendants.

Lessons We Learn:

1. David had many great qualities but one of the greatest was his respect for his enemies.
2. We should show respect for every person; for the debt that we might owe a person; and for a person's position.
3. A leader helps others respect enemies also.

"Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan..."
- 2 Samuel 1:11,12

Love Your Enemy Through Respect

What We'll Learn in This Series:

1. Your _____ is seen in how you treat your enemies.
2. Those who you _____ to be enemies may be the people who help shape you more than anyone.
3. All Christ-followers should be _____ for loving their enemies.

What About Enemies?

"When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today." - 1 Samuel 24:19

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."
- Luke 6:27

The Place:

"After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, 'David is in the Desert of En Gedi.' So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave." - 1 Samuel 24:1-3

Saul couldn't distinguish his enemies from his _____.

Saul hated David a _____! (3000 chosen men!)

Saul had to use the _____!

David just _____ to be in the same cave.

The Opportunity:

"The men said, 'This is the day the LORD spoke of when He said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.''" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master the LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way." - 1 Samuel 24:4-7

David's men saw the _____ of Saul as God's plan.

David simply wanted proof of God's will but later _____ even cutting the King's robe.

David had great respect for his "master" and for the _____ that God had given Saul. (Remember he was also a son-in-law.)

David protected Saul from his men and allowed him to _____.

The Respect:

"Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, 'My lord the king!'"
When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He said to Saul, 'Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you''? This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD's anointed.'
See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you. "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May He consider my cause and uphold it; may He vindicate me by delivering me from your hand." - 1 Samuel 24:8-15

David called to the king in _____ and prostrated himself before him.

He asked the king to be _____.

He showed Saul the piece of the robe and the _____ he had.

He explained that he was no _____ and appealed to the king.

The Response from Saul:

"When David finished saying this, Saul asked, 'Is that your voice, David my son?'"
And he wept aloud. "You are more righteous than I," he said. "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. You have just now told me of the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today. I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."
So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold." - 1 Samuel 24:16-22

Saul seemed truly _____ by David's words and actions.

He blessed David for his _____.

He made a request for his _____.

Lessons We Learn:

1. David had many great _____ but one of the greatest was his respect for his enemies.
2. We should show respect for _____ person; for the debt that we might owe a person; and for a person's position.
3. A leader helps _____ respect enemies also.

*"Then David **and all the men with him** took hold of their clothes and tore them. They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan...."*
- 2 Samuel 1:11,12