

Love Your Enemy Through a Second Chance

What We're Learning 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.

Wasn't This Issue with Saul Solved?

"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

The Similarities in Chapters 24 and 26:

1. The Ziphites "squeal" on David.

"The Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah and said, 'Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hakilah, south of Jeshimon?'" - 1 Samuel 23:19

"The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, 'Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?'" - 1 Samuel 26:1

"For the Director of music. With stringed instruments. A maskil of David. When the Ziphites had gone to Saul and said, 'Is not David hiding among us?'" - Psalm 54
2. Saul goes after David with 3,000 chosen men.
3. David has an opportunity to kill Saul but spares him.
4. David's men encourage him to kill Saul now: David refuses!
5. Saul blesses David realizing that his life has been spared.

The Plan - To Capture David (vs. 1-4)

- The king and his men go to capture David in Hakilah.
- David takes a proactive position by scouting Saul and going towards him.

The Opportunity (vs. 5-12)

- David hears where the king and his general are sleeping.
- David asks for a volunteer for a suicide mission. Abishai, David's nephew, volunteers.

"The three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab, Abishai and Asahel." - 2 Samuel 2:18

- God puts Saul and his men into a deep sleep.

"So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep." - 1 Samuel 26:12
- Abishai wants to kill Saul since God had given the opportunity.
- But David denies Abishai's request for two reasons:
 1. It is wrong!

"But David said to Abishai, 'Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD's anointed and be guiltless?'" - 1 Samuel 26:9
 2. Saul's death should only happen in God's time.

"...the LORD Himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish." - 1 Samuel 26:10

The Appeal to Saul (vs. 13-20)

- David wakes the camp and shouts that he had opportunity to kill the king.
- David asked General Abner why he didn't protect the king. (Worthy of death?)
- David asked Saul to name his crime. He says that if it is God's will for Saul to kill David, then so be it. But if this is the will of your men, they should be cursed for their words and actions.

Saul's Response (vs. 21-25)

- Saul acknowledges his sin.
- He asks David to return with him. He promises not to harm David but although David forgives, he refuses to put himself or Saul in that position again!
- David simply states that his prayer is that God would treat him as he has treated his enemy.

Lessons We Learn:

1. Forgiving and "second chances" can be two different things. Are you the kind of person that offers second chances?
2. Are you, in some cases, giving too many chances and therefore not helping someone conquer a problem?
3. When we are obedient and trusting the Lord, He helps us in our times of trials. God put 3,000 men into a deep sleep!

Love Your Enemy Through a Second Chance

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2. Saul goes after David with _____ chosen men.
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"So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep." - 1 Samuel 26:12
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