

4. Read 1 Samuel 24:16-22.
 - a. Saul's conduct, words, and demeanor are all strikingly different here than what we have come to expect from him. List the differences. What all do you think contributed to this softening?

 - b. When have you observed an opponent's hard outer shell softened by a gentle, honoring, gracious approach to a conflicted relationship?

 - c. What is significant about the two differing directions taken by Saul and David (24:22)?

 - d. Even if our opponent never changes for the better, we must still be true to the character that God is forming in us. To what truths from this chapter can you cling as you strive toward imitating David's example?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Scott Sterner, Forest Lakes District - Church Multiplication
Pray for Scott's time with 200 others at Church Planters Leadership Fellowship in New York this next week. Pray the time will encourage and generate great ideas and innovation as he pursues the ongoing growth of the district vision for multiplying additional churches.

Sermon Notes

"Returning Good for Evil"

1 Samuel 24

November 12, 2017

Introduction

1. The Action: Opportunity and Mercy (24:1-8)

2. David's Speech: Confrontation and Confidence (24:8-15)

3. Saul's Response: Recognition and Request (24:16-22)

Conclusion

godly life which will help us to decide in such situations.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 11-12-17

Questions adapted from Ryan Kelly, *Sermon Summary for Community Group Leaders*, 03/23/14, https://www.desertspringschurch.org/messages/Documents/2014_03_23.pdf accessed 11/11/17; Dale Ralph Davis, *Focus on the Bible 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart*, Bell & Bain, Glasgow, Great Britain, 2014, pp. 252-3; *Explore the Bible*, Quicksourc Leader, Vol. 4, No. 1, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN, Fall 2008, pp. 37-38.

Getting Started:

1. When have you seen attempts to gain revenge backfire on someone?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7.
 - a. David has an opportunity to reverse his circumstances. What were those circumstances and what was that opportunity?
 - b. What good reasons might David have had for acting against Saul, including those offered by his friends?
 - c. David may have wondered, "Is this God's providence to be acted upon, or is this a temptation to be avoided?" Making that distinction can be a dilemma for us as well. List for yourself some principles of the

- d. "God's will must come to pass in God's way" (Dale Ralph Davis, *Focus on the Bible: 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart*, Bell & Blain, Glasgow, England, 2014, pp. 247-8) But we are often tempted to take a short cut, trying to achieve God's will, but not by means of God's approved methods. How was Jesus tempted to take a short cut toward God's destiny for his life (see Matthew 4:8-9)? How are we similarly tempted?

3. Read 1 Samuel 24:8-15
 - a. Rather than take matters into his own hands, David expressed confidence in the Lord (24:12, 15). What specifically did David trust the Lord would do?
 - b. Keying off David's example, in what promises should we take comfort in the midst of our experience of injustice in this life (see Romans 12:19)?
 - c. What specific injustices/mistreatments have presented you with the most spiritually demanding trial in your life? How did you respond? How did God shape your character through that trial?