

Sermon Notes

“Rash Responses and Wise Words”

1 Samuel 25

November 19, 2017

c. The epilogue (25:36-42) emphasizes the LORD's fulfilment of the promised vengeance. Most times, though, we don't see such a rapid resolution. What makes trusting God to carry out vengeance so especially difficult?

d. Much of 1 Samuel confronts us with how we respond to the people in our lives who hurt us, whether through false accusation, insult, rumor, or even physical harm. Summarize some principles from today's text to apply in such situations.

Introduction

1. Abigail's _____ (25:23-31)

2. David's _____ (25:32-35)

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Tim and Sherry Thomas, AWANA missionaries

Pray for Tim and Sherry as they help to equip leaders to reach children and youth with the Gospel and engage them in lifelong discipleship.

Conclusion

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 11-19-17

Questions adapted from Ryan Kelly, *Sermon Summary for Community Group Leaders*, 03/30/14, https://www.desertspringschurch.org/messages/Documents/2014_03_30.pdf accessed 11/18/17; Dale Ralph Davis, *Focus on the Bible 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart*, Bell & Bain, Glasgow, Great Britain, 2014, pp. 260-1.

Getting Started:

1. Ever been bent on a course of action until someone spoke into your life a message that redirected you?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Samuel 25:1-13. Chapter 25 must be read in its context with chapters 24 and 26, where David is merciful to Saul, God's anointed. "Anyone reading the narrative straight through should note the contrast. In chapter 24 David is the restrainer; he will not harm Saul himself or permit his men to do so. But in chapter 25 David must be restrained; he is bent on spilling Nabal's blood and that of his men because of Nabal's affront. He refuses to harm the anointed king but is most willing to liquidate a private Israelite. He sees clearly that he must not take personal vengeance against Yahweh's anointed (24:6) but does not make the same connection when it comes to Abigail's husband (25:13, 21-22). ... In chapter 24, therefore, David saw clearly what he must ... not do; in chapter 25 he does not see it at all. He does not make the connection between the situations with Saul and Nabal."
(Dale Ralph Davis, *Focus on the Bible 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart*, Bell & Bain, Glasgow, Great Britain, 2014, pp. 260-1)

- a. Can you recall times in which you saw God's way quite clearly in some dilemma but missed it completely in a fresh situation when the same principles applied?

- b. What accounts for the difference between David's response to Saul's offense and his response to Nabal's offense?

- c. What does this tell us about David, and what does this tell us about ourselves?

3. Read 1 Samuel 25:14-31

- a. What can we learn here from Abigail – from her actions and from her speech?

- b. Would you have done what she did, or remained silent?

4. Read 1 Samuel 25:32-44.

- a. David was confronted and repented. What was so stunning about his about-face?

- b. What can we learn from David's response?