



1 SAMUEL 24:1-22

GETTING STARTED...

"I'm sorry" is a phrase that as Canadians we are taught at a young age. We are known worldwide as apologetic. Yet, as any true Canadian is aware the polite apologies we give are less than sincere. We all know that some apologies are genuine, and others are not. The question is how do we respond to those who do not truly apologize? As we continue the life of David, we see David come face to face with Saul who has been trying to kill him. David confronts Saul with his sin, and Saul apologizes. Yet the question remains, what do we do when the apology is not sincere? Should we withhold forgiveness? Should we attack back? David shows us the example of both setting boundaries and holding forgiveness at the same time. As we consider how we as Christians can forgive those who persecute us, David shows us a beautiful picture of the mercy of God on us.

LENT GUIDE

The fifth week of Lent we are marking by fasting from Sugar, Caffeine and Alcohol. The things that we put into our body have the ability to control us. As Christians we are called to be controlled by nothing but the Holy Spirit. As we fast from things that may have a hold on our lives, we are committing ourselves to be controlled by God alone. So for this week, stay away from foods with caffeine, extra sugar or alcohol or cut down the amount that you consume. Every time you feel a pull towards one of these things, remind yourself that God alone controls your actions. Take extra time to pray that God would be leading you during the week.

Readings: Psalm 63:5-8, Ephesians 5:18, Romans 12:1-2

READ THE TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 24:1-22

When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." ² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all

Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. ³ And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. ⁴ And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.' " Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. ⁵ And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. ⁶ He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed." ⁷ So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

⁸ Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. ⁹ And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? ¹⁰ Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' ¹¹ See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. ¹² May the Lord judge between me and you, may the Lord avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. ¹³ As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. ¹⁴ After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! ¹⁵ May the Lord therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."

¹⁶ As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. ¹⁷ He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. ¹⁸ And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the Lord put me into your hands. ¹⁹ For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. ²⁰ And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. ²¹ Swear to me therefore by the Lord that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house." ²² And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Looking at David's speech to Saul, what are the points that he makes to Saul? Where is David basing his confidence?
2. Looking at Saul's response, what does he say back to David? What is left out of Saul's 'apology'?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. What is a time in your life when you've had to trust God's word over your own ideas? How did it turn out?
6. What does true repentance look like in your own life? How do we guard ourselves against settling for half-way repentance in our spiritual life?
7. How can we balance setting proper boundaries with those who hurt us with the call to forgive our enemies? What does that practically look like in our life? What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*