

Loving our Enemies

*Lessons from our Lord and the life of David
on loving our enemies*

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Saul views David as an enemy

- Saul views David as an enemy for selfish reasons.

1 Sam 18:29 then Saul was even more afraid of David. Thus Saul was David's enemy continually.

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- Instead of celebrating David, Saul is constantly filled with jealousy.

1 Sam 18:8 Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on... 13 Therefore Saul removed him from his presence and appointed him as his commander of a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. 14 David was prospering in all his ways for the LORD [was] with him. 15 When Saul saw that he was prospering greatly, he dreaded him.

Saul views David as an enemy

- Saul views David as an enemy for selfish reasons.
- Instead of celebrating David, Saul is constantly filled with jealousy.
- Saul despising David leads him to using his family.

The rest of Saul's life is filled with seeking to destroy his enemy.

1 Sam 18:21 Saul thought, "I will give her to him that she may become a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David, "For a second time you may be my son-in-law today." 22 Then Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David secretly, saying, 'Behold, the king delights in you, and all his servants love you; now therefore, become the king's son-in-law.'" ... 25 Saul then said, "Thus you shall say to David, 'The king does not desire any dowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" Now Saul planned to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

How David decides to treat his enemy

- David views Saul as worthy of certain treatment because of who he was in God's eyes.

[1Sa 24:6 NASB95] 6 So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

[1Sa 24:10 NASB95] 10 ...some said to kill you, but [my eye] had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

[1Sa 26:9 NASB95] 9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?"

How David decides to treat his enemy

- David views Saul as worthy of certain treatment because of who he was in God's eyes.
- He isn't swayed by group think but seeks peace with Saul.

[1Sa 24:9-10, 12 NASB95] 9 David said to Saul, "**Why do you listen to the words of men**, saying, 'Behold, David seeks to harm you'? 10 "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but [my eye] had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.' ... 12 "**May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you.**

[1Sa 26:18-19 NASB95] 18 He also said, "Why then is my lord pursuing his servant? For what have I done? Or what evil is in my hand? 19 "Now therefore, please let my lord the king listen to the words of his servant. If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering; **but if it is men**, cursed are they before the LORD, for they have driven me out today so that I would have no attachment with the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.'

How David decides to treat his enemy

- David views Saul as worthy of certain treatment because of who he was in God's eyes.
- He isn't swayed by group think but seeks peace with Saul.
- He doesn't give Saul a reason to think ill of him.

[1Sa 24:17-22 NASB95] 17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. 18 "You have declared today that you have done good to me, that the LORD delivered me into your hand and [yet] you did not kill me. 19 "For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safely? May the LORD therefore reward you with good in return for what you have done to me this day.

[1Sa 26:21 NASB95] 21 Then Saul said, "**I have sinned.** Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, **I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.**"

How David decides to treat his enemy

- David views Saul as worthy of certain treatment because of who he was in God's eyes.
- He isn't swayed by group think but seeks peace with Saul.
- He doesn't give Saul a reason to think ill of him.
- Even in after he's gone, he seeks to respect Saul.

[2Sa 1:11-12, NASB95] 11 Then David took hold of his clothes and **tore them**, and [so] also [did] all the men who [were] with him. 12 They **mourned** and **wept** and **fasted until evening for Saul** and his son Jonathan and for the people of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword..

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[2Sa 1:21-24 NASB95] 21 "O mountains of Gilboa, Let not dew or rain be on you, nor fields of offerings; For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, **The shield of Saul**, not anointed with oil. 22 "From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And **the sword of Saul** did not return empty. 23 "Saul and Jonathan, **beloved and pleasant in their life**, And in their death they were not parted; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions. 24 "O daughters of Israel, **weep over Saul, Who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.**

Even after Saul's gone, David mourns the death of his son, his commander and even takes care of his lame grandson. David didn't let whatever personal issues he had with Saul prevent him from treating his enemy as God would have.

What are some practical lessons from the Lord about how we ought to treat our enemies?

Jesus on loving our enemies

Your standard for how you treat your enemies is Jesus.

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Your standard for how you treat your enemies is Jesus.

Love isn't neutral. It's active.

You are called to love your enemy in every aspect:

- Do good to them.
- Speak good to and of them.
- Go to God for them.
- Go the extra mile in love.

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If you only love like the world, how will they see God?

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Loving Others

1. Not everyone is going to love you, choose to love them anyways.
2. Jesus died just as much for my enemies as He did me, do I recognize that?
3. Even if it's not my first instinct, can I choose to assume the best, to avoid gossip, and to do good to others?
4. Am I willing to love God enough that I will do His will in seeking and saving the lost, even when I don't want to?
5. Your real enemy is the devil, sin and death. Are your enemies that bad? That irredeemable?
6. If God valued your life the way you value the life of your enemies, what would you be worth?