

SERMON SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS, 03/30/14

1 Samuel 25-26 — “The Temptation of Retribution,” Ryan Kelly

In a sentence: In a story that highlights David's sin in plans for retribution, we yet witness the genuine repentance of Israel's king.

SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

Déjà vu of Chapter 26: David Restrains and Spares Saul

The Distinctiveness of Chapter 25: David is Restrained

1. David's Simple Request (2-9)
2. Nabal's Insulting Rejection (10-12)
3. David's Vow of Revenge (13-17)
4. Abigail's Bold Rescue Attempt (18-31)
5. David's Godly Response (32-35)
6. A Quick Resolution (36-44)

HELP FOR UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

1. Much of our time in 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. Is there a relationship that has come to mind where you have struggled to respond well that you can share?
2. Ryan began his sermon by comparing 1 Samuel 26 with chapter 24. Rehearse the stories. What remarkable similarity do we find between these two chapters?
3. Chapter 25 is a different kind of chapter. Or, at least we could say that it highlights a different dynamic of David's character. Read or recount the story from 25:2-44. What accounts for the difference between David's response to Saul's offense his response to Nabal's offense? What does this tell us about David, and what does this tell us about ourselves?
4. David was confronted and he repented. What was so stunning about this about-face? What can we learn here from Abigail? Would you have done what she did, or remained silent? What can we learn from David's response?
5. At the head of the sermon Ryan discussed some of the dynamics involved with preaching through books of the Bible. We've seen a repetition of themes and points of application across this book. How has that proven for you a good thing.

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

1 Peter 2:19–25 – For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. (20) For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. (21) For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. (22) He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. (23) When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. (24) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (25) For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.