

# A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 25:1-44

"Vengeance belongs to the Lord" – October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017



## Introduction

When someone wrongs us, it can feel like a personal insult. And overcoming an insult is difficult because there is a strong impulse in each of us to save face. Pride leaves us desperate to look good in the eyes of others, and we will lash out those who threaten our image. So how do we overcome an insult? How do we respond to being wronged in a godly way? 1 Samuel 25 continues the theme of God's justice and shows how David continued to learn how he could trust God instead of taking matters into his own hand.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

## Sermon Outline

- I. Think before you act (25:1-13)
- II. Rely on godly friends to restrain us from sin (25:14-31)
- III. Have the humility to listen (25:32-44)

## Read & Discuss

### 1) Read [1 Samuel 25:1-13](#)

After David is insulted by Nabal (the fool), he goes off the handle and sets out with 400 of his men to kill Nabal and every male in his house. How were his expectations different toward Saul (in chapter 24) than his expectations toward Nabal? What difference do our expectations make in how we respond to an insult or being wronged? Whereas he sought God's will thru His word before (as in chapter 23), David's emotions had taken over and he foolishly acts *before* he thinks. Proverbs 14:12 tells us, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." What are ways you are tempted to act or speak out before you think in an effort to save face? How can we overcome the pride that ignites our emotions to react rather than respond in wisdom?

Additional reading: Proverbs 27:3, Psalm 10:4, Philippians 2:3-11

### 2) Read [1 Samuel 25:14-31](#)

David is on his way to wipe out Nabal and his family. Nabal won't listen to reason and has no idea what's coming, but Abigail steps in to rescue her family and David. How does she do it? Abigail reminds David of God's past faithfulness to protect him, God's promises regarding his future as king, and then warns him that unless he turns around he will regret what he's about to do. Abigail is an example for us of loving someone enough to get in the way and restrain them from sin. Proverbs 27:6 tells us, "Faithful are the wounds of a

friend, But, deceitful are the kisses of an enemy." Who are your friends that encourage you to walk away from sin and persevere in following Jesus? We all need our Abigail's. What are ways you can be an Abigail to a friend this week?

Additional reading: Proverbs 27:5, Hebrews 10:24-25

3) Read [1 Samuel 25:32-44](#)

It doesn't matter how good of accountability or wise counselors we have around us...if we refuse to *listen* and if we are too proud to be teachable, it does us know good. The best of counsel is the counsel that conforms to God's word. As we receive counsel that is biblical, the wise person hears and *responds*. How does knowing what God has done for us in Christ, help us to grow in humility? How does Christ's death on the cross show us God's commitment to justice and His resurrection the guarantee that we can trust Him to make things right when we've been wronged?

Additional reading: Proverbs 12:15, 1 Peter 2:21-25

**Prayer of Response**

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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