

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Gods prince: The life of David ⑤

INTRODUCTION | Love's revenge

David, whose life was being hunted by Saul had many opportunities to take revenge but instead gave forgiveness. From these scripture verses I'd like us to take 3 points. First, let us learn how, even in the midst of difficulty, God rules all things and how we can turn our hearts and minds to Him. Secondly, I'd like us to see how David not focus on revenge but rather answered Saul in love. Thirdly, David repeatedly repeats "the Lord's anointed" and thus we should also turn our heart to the Lord's anointed Christ (messiah)

SCRIPTURE | 1 Samuel 24:1-22

1 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..

QUESTIONS |

- 1: (verses 1-7) What did David do to Saul? In looking at David's interaction, what surprises you? why? (Ref 1 Sam 26:10-11)
- 2: Why, instead of revenge, did David offer Saul forgiveness? What benefit did David receive in his life for this? (Ref Rom 5:3-5)

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- 3: (10-12) What is obviously understood from David cutting off and taking a strip of Saul's outer garment? To Those who inflict trial and pain on us, those who do us injustice, how should respond?
- 4: When David in love forgave Saul, did he ignore truth and righteousness? Accordingly, when you have the opportunity for revenge or retaliation what attitude can you take? (Ref Rom 12:19-21)
- 5: David always remembered that the Lord ruled all things, and made multiple references to "the Lord's anointed". "The Lord's anointed" is someone specially chosen by the Lord for a messianic task, thus this title points us to Christ. Being wrapped in anger and hate, revenge and retribution is a tendency we have all have. How does Christ's gospel influence and affect that aspect of your attitude?

REFERENCES |

1 Samuel 26:10-11

10 And David said, "As the Lord lives, the Lord will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish. 11 The Lord forbid that I should put out my hand against the Lord's anointed. But take now the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go."

Romans 5:3-5

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 12:19-21

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it[i] to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

PRAYER |

· Pray that as Jesus is full of love and truth, and as we praise him for His forgiveness of our sins, we would not seek revenge and retaliation but rather as we speak truth and love would be brought into conformity with Him.

· If you have a rival or someone who you cannot forgive, think about why that is and what is ruling your heart. Pray that you would repent and that you would turn to the gospel for forgiveness of these things.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

Grace city gospel choir

Lunchtime meetings (Akasaka 10/18, Marunouchi 10/19, Otemachi 10/20)

Elderly care home visit (10/22)

Sunday worship (10/23: King David's dance)

Sunday worship (10/30: The eternal kingdom)