

Name: _____

Date: _____

DAVID (II): A HEART THAT WAITS FOR GOD

“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.” (Romans 12:19)

Objectives

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Knowledge of God’s Will | David avoided sin by refusing to lift a hand against Saul. David overcame evil with good. |
| Knowledge of God | God is sovereign and in control of all things. |
| Good Works | Respect those to whom God has given authority. Remember that vengeance is the Lord’s. Wait on the Lord. |

A. David Spares Saul’s Life at En Gedi (1 Sam 24:1–15)

Everything about David’s situation was entirely unjust, but if we examine his speech, we can see that there is no hint of accusation or hatred in his words.

1. *David feared the Lord:* David respected the Lord, and therefore respected Saul, God’s anointed. When we fear God, we will receive wisdom and avoid sin (Prov 9:10).
2. *David shows grace to Saul:* David showed mercy to Saul, in much the same way the Lord Jesus saved our lives out of grace.

B. David Spares Saul a Second Time (1 Sam 26:1–25)

Abishai wanted to kill Saul because he saw him as an enemy of David’s. David, however, didn’t see an enemy, only God’s chosen king. Because of David’s fear of the Lord, they once again parted peacefully.

1. *David’s discernment of God’s will:* David had two ideal opportunities to eliminate the threat to his life, but during both times, he was able to discern God’s true will and protect both himself and his men from sin and judgment.
2. *David’s trust in the Lord:* David’s fear of the Lord had a solid foundation: he fully trusted in God’s power and provision.
 - a. *Vengeance is the Lord’s:* David showed his trust by deferring the judgment of Saul to God.
 - b. *Wait for God’s timing:* His trust extended into the unseen, unknown future. Although anointed at a young age, David patiently waited for God’s timing in receiving the crown.

Life Application

1. Respecting God’s Anointed

Even if we disagree with authority figures, or witness injustice, prejudice, or inequality, the Lord desires that we submit to authority (Rom 13:1–2). We should especially pray for the leaders of our church as well, so that they can lead the members with wisdom and peace in unity.

2. Vengeance Belongs to the Lord

- a. *Anger leads to sin:* When we get angry, we lose control of ourselves.
- b. *Live in peace:* Jesus taught us, in both words and actions, “[Love] your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Mt 5:44).

3. Waiting on the Lord

We naturally want to take matters into our own hands, but in order to grow and mature in spirit, we need to learn to rely on God more, and remember that God’s way is the best way.

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Lesson 9 Homework Assignment

David (II): A Heart that Waits for God

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

Memory Verse (Romans 12:19):

1. What is a reason we should not avenge ourselves?
2. “[...] He raised up for them _____ as _____, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found _____ the son of Jesse, a man after My own _____, who will _____ all My _____.’” (Acts 13:22)
3. How did David address Saul at En Gedi? Why did he use these titles?
4. How did David’s actions towards Saul reflect the Lord Jesus’ actions towards us?
5. What are the differences between how David saw Saul and how David’s men saw Saul?
6. Have you ever become impatient waiting for God’s response to your prayers? How can you remind yourself to wait on the Lord?