



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 066 - The Perfect Opportunity 1 Samuel 24

David was cunning and shrewd, but he was humble too. He genuinely wanted to serve God and Israel by faithfully serving King Saul. As Saul's son Jonathan repeatedly tried to remind his father, David was a faithful servant who was a great benefit to the king (1 Samuel 19:1, 4-5). While Jonathan spoke up to defend David, many saw the opportunity to get in good with Saul by feeding his suspicions and slandering David to the king (see 1 Samuel 22:7-19).

- Describe a time you were slandered by someone who put you down just so they could get ahead.
- What is the best way to counter that slander?
- Why is it wise to leave it to God to prove your innocence rather than trying to do so yourself?

David and his men faced many close calls as Saul sent the entire Israelite army to capture them, but God protected them. In fact, on two occasions God put Saul within David's reach (see 1 Samuel 26 for the second time).

- Do you think David could have killed Saul and claimed he did it in self defense?
- David had not been afraid to attack and kill Goliath, why did he refuse to attack Saul?
- What is the advantage in keeping your hands clean and letting God repay your enemy?

Just as in the case of David going up to fight Goliath, here we also see many similarities between David and Jesus. Just as Saul was jealous of David's popularity among the people of Israel, the Jewish leaders were jealous of Jesus' popularity among the Jewish people. Just as Saul sought David's life and sent his soldiers to capture him, the Jewish leaders sought Jesus' life and sent their guards to capture Him. Just as David could have easily killed Saul or had him killed, Jesus could have called on twelve legions of angels to deliver Him from His enemies. Instead, just like David, Jesus humbled Himself and left those enemies to God the Father's timing and justice.

- David repaid Saul's murderous hatred with kindness. What kindnesses did Jesus show to His enemies through His arrest, trials, and crucifixion?
- After sparing Saul, David spoke up to reveal his faithfulness and Saul's sinfulness. How did Jesus do the same thing during His arrest and trials? (See Matthew 26:55-56 and John 18:19-24.)
- God proved David's innocence by giving him the throne after Saul died in battle. How did God the Father prove Jesus' innocence?
- How does this encourage you to leave vengeance to God when people intentionally wrong you?