

Sermon Discussion Questions: August 24, 2025
When Mercy Prevails

Sermon: 1 Samuel 25-26

1. Describe a time when a situation was escalating, and someone stepped in to calm things down. What did they do that was so effective?
2. After Nabal dies, David blesses the Lord for two things: avenging the insult and keeping him from wrongdoing (1 Samuel 25:39). Why was it so important for David to recognize that God had not only delivered justice but had also protected him from his own sinful anger?
3. Pastor highlighted Abigail as an "intercessor" who stood between David's wrath and her foolish husband. In what specific ways did her appeal (1 Samuel 25:24-31) show wisdom and courage? How does the sermon connect her actions to the work of Christ?
4. Abigail modeled being a peacemaker at great personal risk. Think about your circles of influence (family, work, church, friends). Is there a conflict where God might be calling you to be a humble agent of peace and reconciliation? What holds you back?
5. The sermon quoted James 1:19-20 about being "slow to anger, for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." Think of a recent time you felt wronged or insulted. How did your response compare to David's initial reaction to Nabal? What practical steps can you take this week to be "quicker to hear and slower to speak"?
6. Compare and contrast David's immediate reaction to Nabal's insult (1 Samuel 25:13, 21-22) with his reaction when given the chance to kill Saul (1 Samuel 26:8-9). What do you think David learned in the time between these two events?
7. In 1 Samuel 26, David's companion Abishai sees Saul's vulnerability as a sign that "God has given your enemy into your hand" (v. 8). David interprets the situation differently. What does David's refusal to harm "the LORD's anointed" reveal about his view of God's sovereignty and justice?
8. In both chapters, David has a clear opportunity to enact his own form of justice. What is the difference between justice and vengeance, as seen in these stories?

9. David had the power and justification (in his own mind) to take vengeance but ultimately chose to show mercy to Saul. In what area of your life are you currently tempted to take matters into your own hands? What would it look like to instead trust God with the outcome and leave justice to Him?
10. Pastor reminded us that mercy is not getting the punishment we do deserve. How does reflecting on the profound mercy God has shown you through Christ motivate you to extend mercy to someone who doesn't seem to deserve it?
11. David publicly showed deference to Saul's position as king, even while Saul was hunting him. Is there a person in authority in your life (a boss, a leader, a government official) whom you find it difficult to honor? How can we honor the position without necessarily condoning wrong actions?

Prayer Points:

- Ask God to allow you to be a peacemaker in mediating disputes others have.
 - Ask God to allow you to trust his justice and not seek your own just because you can.
 - Ask God to give you a heart of mercy in tough situations you are facing.
12. The final prayer point in the sermon was to "ask God to give you a heart of mercy." What is one specific situation or relationship where you need God to do that for you this week?