

Life Lessons From 1 Samuel
A Lesson In Loving Difficult People
1 Samuel 26 (page 204)

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1. There will always be **DIFFICULT PEOPLE** who **CAUSE TROUBLE**. (vs 1-7)

- * Just because God has called you to do His work, doesn't mean it will be EASY or people will LIKE IT.
(John 16:33b)

2. God wants us to **SHOW MERCY** and **LOVE** to the **difficult people in our lives.** (vs 8-16)

David gives 2 reasons why he didn't kill Saul:

Reason #1, It wasn't his PLACE to kill Saul.

Reason #2, It wasn't the right TIME.

- * So, how do we show mercy and even love, difficult people?

1. P R A Y for your own H E A R T. (Col 3:12-14)
2. P R A Y for T H E M. (Matt 5:44; Phil 1:9-11)
3. Move T O W A R D them, not A W A Y from them.
(Prov 25:21-22)
4. Find S P E C I F I C ways to B L E S S and E N C O U R A G E them. (Matt 5:38-42; Eph 4:32; 1 Peter 3:8-9)

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5. Give them G R A C E, just as God E X T E N D S grace to you. (Col 3:13)
6. Realize that Y O U, too, could be the D I F F I C U L T person in someone else's life! (Titus 3:1-3; Matt 7:1-5)
3. God wants us to T R U S T Him to H A N D L E the difficult people in our lives. (vs 17-25)

Vs 23-24 are the key...and they reveal not only David's heart and faith in God, but what we are supposed to do.

Let's break it down:

23 "The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness."

- * David understood the C O N N E C T I O N between obedience and blessing and disobedience and judgement.

"The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord's anointed."

- * David understood A U T H O R I T Y...that it is established by God...and he would not be apart of D E F Y I N G that.

24 "As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord value my life and deliver me from all trouble."

- * David understood God's V A L U E of people and chose to trust God to V I N D I C A T E instead of taking action.

A Lesson In Loving Difficult People

David had 2 lessons to learn in dealing with the difficult people in his life:

First, he learned that it wasn't his P L A C E to try to C H A N G E them or R E M O V E them.

Second, he learned to T R U S T God to H A N D L E them.

What about you?

1. What is my H E A R T towards difficult people?
2. How can I move towards them for G O D ' S G L O R Y instead of away from them for my E A S E?
3. How can I specifically show M E R C Y and G R A C E and L O V E toward the difficult people in my life?
4. In what way will I T R U S T God to H A N D L E the difficult people in my life?