

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for August 27, 2023

Sermon Notes

He Did Not Revile In Return

1 Samuel 24

“Quick and painless”. That’s a phrase we like to hear, and would like to believe, especially if it’s coming from our dentist, or our orthopedist, or our proctologist. Truth be told, “quick and painless” would be our preferred path to a lot of goals and achievements. We want the pill that makes it happen, not the hard work that is the alternative.

In 1 Samuel 24, we find David confronted with the opportunity to take a “quick and painless” path to success. To most of us, it would have been a great temptation. God has promised David the throne, but the path there has been long and difficult, and it is not getting any easier.

Why has God chosen to make David’s path so difficult? Why did Jesus choose the long hard road over the quick and painless path (Matthew 4:1-11)? One commentator pondered the question and asked, “If God’s ultimate purpose for his creation is the new heavens and new earth where there will be no more tears, why is the journey to that kingdom so long and difficult? Why are there so many tears on the way?” (John Woodhouse)

The next three chapters of 1 Samuel (24,25,26) will help us gain some insight into this question and help us see what it is God is accomplishing in David’s life and what he purposes to accomplish in ours. In 1 Samuel 24, David sets an example for us, but more importantly his actions point us to his greater Son to come, the Lord Jesus. Peter tells us that Jesus, like David before him, “did not revile in return” when he was reviled (1 Peter 2:23) but instead “continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”

He Did Not Revile In Return, Instead He Showed Mercy (1 Samuel 24:1-7)

He Did Not Revile In Return, In So Doing His Heart Was Revealed (1 Samuel 24:8-15)

He Did Not Revile In Return, Instead a Gracious Promise Was Made (1 Samuel 24:16-22)

Applications: _____

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."

- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
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Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
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Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

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AUGUST

27 Trail Life Leader's Meeting @ 3:15pm
28 Person County Schools First Day of School
28 GriefShare: Loss of Spouse @ 6:30pm
28 AHG/TLU Open Houses @ 6:30pm

SEPTEMBER

1 Person @ Northern Durham @ 7pm
3 6th Grade/Children's SS Teacher Recognition
4 Labor Day - Church Office Closed
8 Person vs. Salisbury @ 7pm
10 Move Up Sunday
10 JT's 30th Anniversary Celebration