

“Loving Our Enemies: The Great Hope of Reconciliation”  
1 Samuel 24:1-22

*“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same....But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:32-36)*

- 1 Samuel 24:1-7: How God uses our conscience to save us from sinning.
  - Saul again (1 Samuel 13:2) gathers the three thousand chosen men to seek after David. David at this point has about six hundred men with him (1 Samuel 23:13).
  - Here in this moment, we see the ways that God speaks to His people. We have counsel, conscience, and His Word. The Word of God is the surest of all God’s means, but it still must be interpreted correctly.
    - *“A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might, for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory” (Proverbs 24:5-6). “They (Gentiles) show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them” (Romans 2:15). “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). “I have stored up Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11).*
- 1 Samuel 24:8-15: David’s Appeal to Saul.
  - David comes before Saul, with honor and humility (1 Peter 2:13-17). David was also a man who was a good speaker (1 Samuel 16:18) and God was going to use both his compassion and his oratory ability to convince Saul of his error.
  - David is leaving the situation for God to judge....*“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’” (Romans 12:19)*
  - *“Out of the wicked comes wickedness.”* David understands that our words and our actions demonstrate our hearts....*“The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45)*
- 1 Samuel 24:16-22: Saul’s Sobering Begins.
  - Saul is starting to realize the error of his way. He is starting to see that the voices in his head, in his soul, and in his life, are not operating with reality. This is the fourth time that David’s loyalty has been argued to Saul (1 Samuel 19:4-6; 20:32; 22:14; 24:8-15). It may be starting to take.

**Announcements:**

★**SUNDAY TEACHING CLASS:** We will be starting a new Sunday teaching class in 3 weeks, on January 22nd. This class will be an 8 week course entitled "A Biblical View of Prayer" and will be taught by Elder Zach. This class will be held every Sunday, for 8 weeks, at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-up list on the back table for those who are interested in participating in this class!

★**CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING:** We will be having a business meeting in 3 weeks, on Sunday, January 22nd, immediately following the worship service to discuss the 2023 Church Budget. If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for this important meeting!