



WORTH THE WAIT

Studies in I Samuel

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

Unnecessary Roughness I Samuel 24-25

In football unnecessary roughness is considered a personal foul and carries a fifteen yard penalty. It usually results from the desire to make a point rather than just execute the play. Similarly, in this week’s study there are some examples of unnecessary roughness, one of which is overcome by the perpetrator, while another is avoided through outside intervention. As the story of David’s flight from Saul continues, while David and his men hide out in a cave a golden opportunity arises. When Saul happened to enter this cave to relieve himself, David’s men viewed this as God giving Saul into their hands. In an unexpected show of humility, though, David simply cut off the corner of Saul’s robe, and then let him know he had spared his life. Although he had done

this he felt guilt for doing even this to the king, God’s anointed, and told him so. This brought Saul to an awareness that David really wasn’t his enemy because his heart was right, and led him to acknowledge that David would succeed him. He even asked that he protect his descendants when he became king. The next example occurred after Samuel’s death when David was in the wilderness of Paran. Nabal, who was rich, harsh and evil, had a great number of sheep there, along with a beautiful and intelligent wife, Abigail. When David heard it was time for the sheep shearing festival he asked through messengers if his men could join them. They had protected Nabal’s shepherds and flocks and felt entitled to this. But Nabal had an ungrateful,



Anything of true value is worth waiting for.

negative response, leading David to take his men to kill him. However, Abigail heard about this and went to David for an urgent intervention. She took him provisions and asked him to not kill Nabal, but rather leave him in God’s hands. When David listened to her he blessed her and changed his mind. She then went back home and told Nabal. He died ten days later, causing David to feel that God had indeed taken vengeance on him, bringing about justice. He then asked Abigail to be his wife, to which he agreed. He also had another wife, Ahinoam, but his first wife, Michal, had been taken by Saul—just another example of unnecessary roughness.

Study Questions for I Samuel 24-25

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read 1 Sam 24:1-7. When Saul chased David again what occurred (v1-3)? How did David’s men interpret this and what did he do (v4)? How did this affect him and why (v5-6)? What else did he do and what resulted (v7)?</p>	
<p>2. Using 24:8-15 what did David do and say next (v8, 9-10) and what truth did this demonstrate (v11-13)? What other point did David make (v14) and what did he request (v15)?</p>	
<p>3. From 24:16-22 what did Saul acknowledge (v16-18) and what did he ask of the Lord (v19)? What did he finally admit (v20), what did he ask (v21) and what was the outcome (v22)?</p>	

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I Samuel 24-25 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. In 1 Sam 25:1-8 what transition occurred (v1)? Describe Nabal and Abigail (v2-3). What did David hear (v4) and to what did this lead (v5-8)?</p>	
<p>5. Based on 25:9-13 how did Nabal answer David's request (v9-11)? What was David's response (v12-13)? Do you think he was right? Explain.</p>	
<p>6. From 25:14-17 who was told of Nabal's and David's responses (v14)? How did the messenger assess David's position (v15-16) and what did he advise (v17)?</p>	
<p>7. Looking at 25:18-22 detail Abigail's actions (v18, 19, 20) and David's intentions (v21-22).</p>	
<p>8. Read 25:23-31. What did Abigail then do and say (v23-25)? What were the points in her case to David (v26, 27, 28, 29), what did she ask (v30-31), and what does this reveal about her?</p>	
<p>9. Read 25:32-35. How did David respond to Abigail (v32) and what did he affirm (v33-34)? What did he then tell her (v35)?</p>	
<p>10. According to 25:36-38 what was Nabal doing when Abigail returned (v36) What happened when she reported her encounter at first (v37) and later (v38)? Why do you think it did?</p>	
<p>11. In 25:39-44 how did David respond (v39) and what does this teach us? What else occurred (v39-40) and how did Abigail respond (v41-42)? Who else were David's wives at this time (v43-44)?</p>	
<p>12. Review this study. How did God keep David from "unnecessary roughness" with Saul (24:5-6) and Nabal (25:14-32)? What does this show us about 2 ways God often keeps us from doing evil? Apply.</p>	

Scripture to Remember

"Far be it from me because of the Lord that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him since he is the Lord's anointed."

I Samuel 24:6

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—*The Deliverance Gap (Identity Theft-Ex 5-9)*

(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share about some of the things that pump you up, and then some of the things that get you down. What are some of your typical responses when you get down?
2. Read Ex 5:1-9. Discuss why you think God didn't deliver Israel immediately (compare 6:1, 7). Why does God allow a gap between His promise and our deliverance?
3. Have you ever questioned God's goodness, wisdom or promise? Share with the group about that. Based on Moses' experience how does God deal with that?
4. From Jas 1:2 God promises that 1) we will be tested 2) we will have diverse tests of our faith and 3) we will be developed through them. Why is it important to remember each of these truths?
5. What is the difference between general and specific obedience? Why does God desire specific obedience—what is the significance of this?
6. Discuss this concept "The way to love Christ more is to focus on His love for you." How does this relate to the "heart" obedience that God desires?
7. Share with each other about a specific area in which you are being tested right now. What can you apply from this message to get you through the "gap" constructively?