

JUSTIFIED SIN

"Lessons In Revenge"

(I Samuel 18-24)

- Introduction:
1. If there was ever a *"justifiable sin"*, I guess it would have to be revenge.
 2. Revenge is usually sought after in order to *"right a wrong"*.
 3. However, we as Christians are forbidden to get revenge.
 - a. (Romans 12:19) *"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord."*
 - b. (Romans 12:17) *"Repay no man evil for evil..."*
 4. This being the case, it may be helpful to examine the life of a man who was sinned against and could have sought revenge.

I. DAVID AND KING SAUL

- A. David's introduction to Saul was as a musician, hired to play his music to sooth and calm Saul when he was distressed (I Samuel 16:21-23).
- B. The next scene recorded was David's battle with Goliath (I Samuel 17).
 1. Possibly Saul's decision to allow David to fight was due to his prior knowledge of him (I Samuel 16:18).
 2. Much has been made of the two introductions of David to Saul (I Samuel 16:21 & I Samuel 17:56-58).
 - a. There is no contradiction here.
 - b. Saul is not wanting to know the identity of David, but of his father so that he might perform his promise (I Samuel 17:25).
- C. Upon returning home from battle, Saul's attitude changed toward David.
 1. The women were singing praises to David (18:6-7).
 2. This made Saul burn with envy (18:8-9,14-15).
 3. Saul attempts to kill David with his own hands (18:10-11).
 4. Saul attempts to arrange David's death in battle (18:17).
 5. Saul attempts to ensnare David through his daughter (18:20-21).
 6. Finally, Saul just declares all out war against David (18:28-29).

II. THE COST OF SAUL'S ANGER AGAINST DAVID

- A. David's Position (18:13).
- B. David's Wife (18:20-21;19:11-12).
- C. David's Mentor (19:19;20:1).
- D. David's Friend (20:1-42).
- E. David's Self Respect (21:1-13).
- F. After losing his job, his wife, his mentor, his best friend, and even his self respect, David had a right to be angry.

III. DAVID'S OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE

- A. David eventually fled to a cave, and there hid himself with several sympathetic followers who had heard of his mistreatment by Saul.
- B. It just so happens that the very cave in which David and his men were hiding, was the cave that Saul decided to enter in order to "*relieve himself*" (24:1-3).
- C. David received encouragement to seek revenge (24:4).
 - 1. Once David's men saw the vulnerability of Saul, their human natures went into overdrive, masked by an air of spirituality.
- D. David's human nature responded (24:4).
 - 1. David cut off a part of Saul's garment.
 - 2. David couldn't completely let this situation pass by without the least little taste of revenge.
- E. David's conscience immediately bothered him (24:5-7).
 - 1. David was sensitive to even the "*little*" sins.
 - 2. He confessed his sin to his men and persuaded them to allow God to avenge him.
- F. David confronts Saul as he leaves the cave and reconciliation is achieved, at least temporarily (24:8-22).

IV. PRACTICAL LESSONS TO LEARN

- A. Temptation to seek revenge can be overcome (Philippians 4:13).
- B. Those who sin against us need our prayers, not our plunder (Rom. 12:20-21).
- C. Use it as an opportunity to demonstrate your likeness to Christ (Phil. 1:29).
- D. Humbly confront your offender (Matthew 18:15-17).