



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

The Perfect Opportunity February 18-20, 2017

(1 Samuel 26:7-18, 21, 25) So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him. {8} Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won't strike him twice." {9} But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? {10} As surely as the LORD lives," he said, "the LORD himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. {11} But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go." {12} So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep. {13} Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them. {14} He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, "Aren't you going to answer me, Abner?" Abner replied, "Who are you who calls to the king?" {15} David said, "You're a man, aren't you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn't you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king. {16} What you have done is not good. As surely as the LORD lives, you and your men deserve to die, because you did not guard your master, the Lord's anointed. Look around you. Where are the king's spear and water jug that were near his head?" {17} Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is that your voice, David my son?" David replied, "Yes it is, my lord the king." {18} And he added, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of?...{21} Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have erred greatly."...{25} Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David; you will do great things and surely triumph." So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

1. Have you ever played a joke on someone who was sleeping? What's the most embarrassing thing you ever slept through? Share your favorite story.

2. What similarities/differences do you see between this account and the one recorded in 1 Samuel 24:1-22?

3. Give some reasons why a person in David's situation might feel (be?) justified in killing Saul.

4. When people have been sinned against, they often feel the need to have the "scales" balanced (i.e. make things fair again). List some ways that this natural desire shows itself in people's lives.

5. Agree/disagree: "I can make people 'pay' for their sins against me by refusing to forgive them."

6. Agree/disagree: David got a bit of revenge on Saul by stealing his spear and water jug.

7. Give at least three reasons why David did not kill Saul.

8. Read Romans 12:20. What does this verse mean to you? How is this verse illustrated in the life of David and Saul?

9. How do you personally overcome the desire to "get even" with someone who has mistreated you?

10. What will you take with you from this lesson/discussion?