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Secure in the Lord

1 Samuel 25

At one time or another you have probably found yourself saying—or thinking, “I’ll get you for this!” “You’ll be sorry you ever treated me that way!” “You’ll wish you had never been born!” When people mistreat us, we instinctively want revenge. We want to get even, to show them how it feels.

GROUP DISCUSSION. Someone once dumped a large load of garbage on a man’s private property. While looking through the garbage, the man found the offender’s name and address on an envelope. He quickly loaded up the garbage, drove to the person’s house, and dumped the mess in his front yard. Do you think the man’s actions were justified or not? Explain.

PERSONAL REFLECTION. When have you been tempted to get even with someone?

In 1 Samuel 25 David is insulted by a man named Nabal. David’s response gives us both a positive and negative example of how we should respond to those who mistreat us. *Read 1 Samuel 25.*

1. Why do you think the events in this chapter are deliberately sandwiched between two accounts where David had a chance to kill Saul?

2. What does the author tell us about the two new characters in this drama (vv. 2-3)?

3. Why is David so offended by Nabal's response to his request (vv. 4-13, 21-22)?

4. Even if David's offense is justified, how would you evaluate his plan to get even with Nabal (vv. 13, 34)?

5. What methods do we sometimes use to "get even" with those who mistreat us?

6. What impresses you about Abigail's response when she finds out what has happened (vv. 14-32)?

7. How is David's relationship with Nabal similar to his relationship with Saul?

8. What lesson is the Lord repeatedly trying to drive home to David and to us?

9. How would Nabal's fate encourage David to trust God about Saul?

10. Think of someone who has recently mistreated you. How can this study affect your attitude and actions toward that person?

Take time to pray for that person. Ask the Lord for grace to show love toward the person and to entrust the matter into God's hands.

Now or Later

In Romans 12:19-21 Paul writes, "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.'" What are some additional ways we can overcome evil with good?