

How to Handle Your Enemies

1 Samuel 24

I. The Unique Situation

- A. Be very careful when people start giving you advice on how to handle your enemies (v.4).
- B. When God and our conscience work together we have protection and guidance to live victorious in today's world (vv.5-7).

II. The Definition of Key Terms

- A. Forgiveness is giving up resentment against someone and surrendering one's right to retaliate, no matter the offense.
- B. Unforgiveness is the deliberate, willful refusal to give up resentment or an insistence that someone pays for a wrong that was committed.

III. The Insightful Conversation

- A. Forgiveness does not mean refusing to take the wrong seriously (vv.9-15).
- B. Forgiveness does not mean that you must restore a relationship to what it was before the offense (v.22).

IV. Important Reminders

- A. Our duty to forgive others depends on recalling the pardon we have received from God (Matthew 18:33; Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:13).
- B. You will never live freely or fully if you ignore the sin of unforgiveness (Matthew 6:12, 18:35; Mark 11:25-26; James 2:13).