

Taking it Home

- Do you have unresolved anger, bitterness and even wrath stored up within your heart against someone who has injured, hurt, oppressed or abused you? Today, READ Matthew 6:14-15 and then go before the Lord's throne of grace and seek to forgive those who have wronged you. This will bring healing to your soul.

- David's willingness to yield to the convictions of his heart (1 Sam. 24:5) resulted in repentance and healing to his soul. David's heart was in alignment with God's heart—how's your heart today?

- It is a medical fact that stored up anger, bitterness and wrath can make a person physically ill. Today, take your hurts, injuries, and anger and lay it at the foot of the cross—it has been covered by the blood of Christ; leave room for God's wrath and vengeance on those who have harmed you (Romans 12:19).

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

7 Deadly Sins
Wrath
1 Samuel 24

Dr. Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
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WRATH

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelc.com

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 24, 2010

1 Samuel 24

Quick Review: King Saul, relentlessly searching for David to destroy him, catches up with David in the wilderness region of En Gedi. The Lord had other plans, however, and Saul's life was in David's hands as king Saul went inside the same cave where David was hiding to relieve himself. Rather than unfurling his vengeance and wrath upon King Saul who had pursued him for years, David cuts off a piece of Saul's robe as evidence of his opportunity to kill him. The attitude of David's righteous heart kept him from hurting the king and seeking vengeance.

My Story

- Anger can easily turn into bitterness, wrath and vengeance. We are inundated with images on television and other media outlets every day of numerous accounts of wrath destroying people's lives. Without naming anyone, recount a situation of someone you know who destroyed their life & the lives of others due to wrath or vengeance.
- A biblical definition of wrath is "an abiding and settled habit of the mind with the purpose of getting revenge." Without naming names, have you ever thought about getting revenge against someone who has injured/hurt you? What stopped you from fulfilling your wrath/revenge?

Growing Deeper

- King Saul desperately wants to kill David. While David and his men hide in a cave in En Gedi, King Saul, hot on David's trail, enters the same cave to relieve himself. David can finally have vengeance on King Saul, but instead of killing Saul, David only takes a piece of King Saul's robe with his sword. What prevented David from taking full vengeance when he had a chance? What was Pastor Matthew's reason **why** David could not take his wrath out on King Saul? Even though David did not injure Saul when he could have, why did David feel conviction (1 Sam. 24:5) after cutting off a piece of Saul's robe?
- All of us could sympathize with David's plight as he was pursued by a wrathful king for years, even though David had done nothing wrong. Perhaps you have had a similar story in which you were innocent yet were persecuted, oppressed, abused or hurt. In light of the second half of the greatest commandment (Matt 22:37-40; Deut 6:5; cf Matt 18:21-35), what are we called to do?
- There are times in everyone's life when people hurt or injure us. According to Pastor Matthew, what are the options Christians have when dealing with people who've deeply injured us? Is there a rightful time for a Christian's wrath and vengeance upon another person? Use Scripture to defend your position.
- READ Romans 12:17-21 and interpret. Make a list of the commands Christians **must do** and **must NOT do** from these 5 verses. (Cf. Prov. 25:21-22; Matt. 5:44). Are the commands in Romans 12:17-21 optional?
- In the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12, Jesus declares how a person's heart should manifest certain qualities as followers of Christ. Write down a list of the qualities of a heart that are represented in the Beatitudes. Is it possible for a Christian to store wrath and vengeance in their heart and yet daily live out the Beatitudes? Discuss.
- Pastor Matthew gave several illustrations from Matthew 5:39-42; how Christians should behave towards people who take advantage of us, persecute, or injure us. What did the illustrations reveal?