

DON'T SETTLE
Difficult People – *Part 1*

ON TV: The difficult people in our lives, ultimately gain a measure of **control** over our lives, and before we know it, we're actually acting like they do, and it **feels in the moment**, as if we have no choice.

ON TV: Difficult people keep us **off balance**. And what happens is we're forced to **compensate**.

ON TV: It is so difficult to be **good to people** who just **aren't good**.

ON TV: Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

ON TV: Iron rule: *Do unto others as they have done unto you!*

ON TV: What do we do about the **difficult people** in our life?

ON TV: Getting even makes us even with someone that we **dislike**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "2 A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was sharing in Carmel. 3 His name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was harsh and mean in his dealings." 1 Samuel 25:2-3

ON TV/OUTLINE: "4 While David and his men were in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. 5 So he sent ten of his young men and he said to them, 'Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name.' 6 Say to him, 'Long life to you Nabal! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours! 7 Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel, nothing of theirs went missing. 8 Ask your own servants, and they will tell you. Therefore, be favorable toward my young men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son, David, whatever you can find for them.' 9 When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited." 1 Samuel 25:4-9

ON TV/OUTLINE: "Whenever David attacked in an area, he did not leave a man or a woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels and clothes." 1 Samuel 27:9

ON TV/OUTLINE: "10 Nabal answered David's servants, 'Who is this, David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. 11 Why should I take my bread and water and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers and give it to men coming from who knows where?' 12 David's men turned around and they went back. When they arrived, they repeated every word. 13 David said to his men, 'Each of you strap on your sword.' So, they did. And David strapped on his own as well. About four hundred men went up with David." 1 Samuel 25:10-13

ON TV: Question #1: Do you want to be **even with someone** you don't even like?

ON TV: Question #2: Do you want to get even with someone you don't even like, or wouldn't you rather **be ahead**?

ON TV: We actually relationally pull ahead by **refusing to get even**.

ON TV: Question #3: When this is nothing more than a story that you will eventually tell, what story is it that you **want to communicate**?

ON TV: What would it look like to return **good for evil**?

ON TV: "27 But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. 28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. 31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you. 32 If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate." Luke 6:27-28, 31-33, 36