

"THE EMOTION THAT DISTORTS YOUR JUDGMENT"

I Samuel 25:1-42

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Resisting the urge to seek vengeance: (Rom. 12:17-19, 21)

B. Lessons learned in resisting vengeance: Chapter 24

1. Resisting the urge to "get even": 24:1-8
2. Addressing the facts tactfully: 24:9-21
3. Protecting oneself from future vulnerability: 24:22

C. Vengeful anger, the choice that becomes a habit: (See back)

"Anger is a choice that triggers a habit. It is learned behavior to frustration in which you foolishly react rather than wisely act. Severe anger is a form of temporary insanity. You are temporarily insane when you cannot control your behavior."

Biblically defining anger: "Anger is the emotion that suddenly arises whenever one encounters a perceived wrong. It has best been described as a blocked goal, that triggers a heart felt hurt. The word is found 455 times in the O. T. and 375 of these times it is used to describe God's anger." Ps. 7:11

Godly anger vs. sinful anger:

a. "Godly anger is God's gift to man designed to express a reverence for His holiness and a commitment to loving people, with fruit in mind. It is always theocratic. It is triggered by actual wrongs against God and others, as explicitly defined in Scripture and motivates me to take constructive action by stopping the evil, leaving things better than when I found them. It has no residual impact into the next day. Godly anger was designed by God to be a visitor and never a resident." (Eph. 4:26-27; Jn. 2:14-17; Neh. 13:25-27) (Spiritual bent)

b. "Sinful anger is distorted by my own sinful bents. It is always egocentric. It is triggered by "perceived wrongs" against me and my expectations of others, and motivates me to take destructive action, (sarcasm, raised voice, profanity, name calling, kicking, hitting, throwing, false accusations, criticism, pouting or sulking) leaving things worse than when I found them. It does have residual impact indefinitely with the harbored hurt fostering depression, critical negativism, over reactive verbal outbursts and explosive actions. It devours relationships and will always sour my appetite to be fruitful for God." (Ps. 37:8; 29:11; Jer. 1:19-20; Eph. 4:31-32) (fleshly and family bents)

D. The three key characters in our story:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

II. ADDRESSING ANGER, A PREREQUISITE FOR "WOULD-BE" LEADERS:

A. David's sincere request: vv. 4-9

- 1.
- 2.

B. The two-pronged attack of Nabal: vv. 10-11

- 1.
- 2.

C. David's angry response: vv. 12-13, 21-22

- 1.
- 2.

D. Abigail's wise intervention: v. 14, 18-20, 23-31

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

E. David faces his anger: vv. 32-35

- 1.
- 2.

F. God fulfilling His promise when we get out of the way: vv. 36-42

- 1.
- 2.

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

A.

B.

C.

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breathe my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.