

**Series:** Fugitive, a study in 1 Samuel

**Sermon:** The Gall of Bitterness

**Primary Text:** 1 Samuel 24, 26

**Discussion guide:**

- What is bitterness?
- Has there been a time in your life where bitterness was growing in your heart, and you didn't realize it?
  - What were some of the results of this?
- Read Hebrews 12:15
  - What is the significance of the phrase "root of bitterness"?
  - How does it "defile" "many"?
- Read 1 Samuel 24
  - What jumps out at you in this story?
  - Does David have a right to be bitter? Why or why not?
- How does bitterness cause us to devalue other humans?
  - No matter what Saul did what did David see him as?
    - What does this tell us?
- Why is slander such a dangerous sin?
  - When do you need to bring an issue, you have with someone to them?
  - When do you need to just let it go?
- How does bitterness lead to division?
  - Read John 13:35 and John 17:21 – what does Jesus say about our unity?
  - How can we fight for unity in the church?
- How does bitterness lead us to try to "take control from God"?
  - How is David tempted to do so in his situations with Saul?
  - When do we know, we are trying to take control from God?
- Why do we often think God is on our side in our bitter behavior?
  - Why is it important to know that God is on all humans side – but against certain sins and habits within us?