

ADDRESS THE MESS

ADDRESS THE MESS, PART 4: MESSY-ER

When you have a mess to address, first options aren't usually the best options. Getting back at the person who wronged you, lashing out, taking risky gambles— first options often make messes messier. Doing the right thing is more difficult. Doing the right thing doesn't offer quick, simple fixes. But it results in a story worth telling, a story that glorifies God. That's because doing the right thing begins with following Jesus.

BIG IDEA: Don't add water to the flood. Don't make your mess messier. Do the right thing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing in your life, large or small, you wish there was a quick fix for? Why is a quick fix so attractive?
2. Talk about a time when you faced a mess and resisted the temptation of a quick fix. What happened?
3. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read 1 Samuel 24:1–13.*

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the Lord." With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way. Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'? This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the Lord's anointed.' See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you.

1 Samuel 24:1–13

4. In the passage, it would have been easy for David to assume that God delivered Saul into his hands, but he chose restraint. When you're addressing a mess, how do you tell the difference between your emotions and desires and God's will for you?
5. During the message, Carlo said, "Ignore virtue and you will eventually make a mess." Do you agree? Why or why not?

ADDRESS THE MESS

6. Is it difficult for you to believe that when you choose virtue, God takes responsibility for the outcome of the journey? Why or why not?
7. Is there a mess in your life in which you need to opt for virtue over “hurt-you”? If so, what is one thing you can do this week to choose virtue? How can this group support you?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

When you're in the middle of a mess, you'll be tempted to make that mess messier. Remember that when you look back on that season of life, the real story won't be the mess. It'll be how you responded to the mess.

Taking matters into your own hands may seem like the quickest fix, but Jesus asks you to follow him. If you choose to do so, he'll write a story in you and through you that is bigger than any mess.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. 1 Samuel 24:12