

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of April 25th, 2021

Sermon: "Justice and Mercy"

Text: 1 Samuel 26-27

SUMMARY

God's justice enables our mercy, because in the justice of God in the gospel we receive confidence, salvation, and wisdom.

FOR GROUPS

Would it have been "just" for David to allow Abashai to destroy Saul? Why/why not?

How is God's justice different than ours? Use evidence from the text of 1 Samuel 26 to answer.

David's confidence in God's perfect justice allowed him to have mercy on Saul. In what ways do you struggle to lack confidence in God's justice? How are you tempted in that to fail to show mercy, or to take matters into your own hand?

In a situation where you have the "upper hand", why is it so hard to show mercy and grace? How does the gospel teach us the beauty of restraint?

Because David trusts God's justice is better than his own and has mercy on Saul, God delivers him from Saul. What is the link between mercy and salvation? How does this remind us of the good news of Jesus?

In his trust of God, David also shows incredible wisdom in chapter 27. How does trusting in God's justice lead us to gain a heart of patience and wisdom? How are you tempted to act foolishly in trusting your own plans for justice over God's?

How are you tempted to try to pass selfish anger as righteous anger? Why is it so hard to "be angry, and not sin?"

Read Romans 12:19-21, Matthew 6:14-15, and James 1:19-20. In relating to those who have wronged us, where does the emphasis in these passages lie?

How does a meditation on the cross of Christ lead us to a greater trust in the justice of God and a greater expression of the mercy of God?