

Discussion Questions:

Life of David: Part 9 – Equal Pay for Unequal Work?

1. What was your gut response to Pastor Kent's question about whether injured / benched / 3rd string players (who didn't really play much if at all) should be able to participate in championship activities / meals / awards / etc.? Why do you think you responded that way?
2. Look at 1 Samuel 30:21 again. Keeping in mind that "greeted them" is probably better translated, "asked them how they were doing", do you find David's interaction with those who stayed behind to be surprising?

Are there other good models (Biblical, Historical, or just Personal) that you'd point to of leaders checking in on people?

3. Have you ever caught yourself asking someone, "Hey how's it going?" without really considering whether you really wanted to find out, or to take the time to listen how that person really is doing?

If so, why do you think we do this?

Read Romans 12:10. How do you think we can begin to apply this verse?

4. In contrast, what was the attitude of many of the men who went to battle toward those who had stayed behind? Find examples from the 1 Samuel 30 passage.
5. One particularly powerful quote from the sermon was, "It is both ungodly and un-God-like to turn your back on those who struggle." How is turning your back on those who struggle ungodly? How is it un-God-like?

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6. Pastor Kent asked a poignant question worth considering; “Who do you know that needs compassion? Who in your life is someone you should be moving *toward* rather than *away from*?” Take some time to consider this either alone, or even with your group. Maybe even consider sharing who this person might be with your group, so that they can be praying for you?

7. Read over the following passages used in the sermon:

- Deuteronomy 8:11-18
- 1 Chronicles 29:10-14
- 1 Corinthians 4:7

Summarize these passages, particularly in view of correcting David’s men who wanted to withhold plunder from the those who stayed by the Besor Valley (and even wanted to expel them from the community!) [1 Sam. 30:22]

8. Read Jesus’ Parable in Matthew 20:1-16.

- If you had been one of the laborers who had been called early in the day, how do you think you would respond to seeing the owner giving the same pay to a guy who had worked only one hour? Why?
- Is it “fair” for God to treat equally a person who spends decades following Christ, and another who lives as a pagan, but converts on their deathbed?
- Since we’re talking about “fair”; If God were to treat any of us “fairly”, what would be the outcome? [See Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3]
- In our real lives (Grays Harbor, Washington, USA, 2019, etc.), do you think our culture is more like David or David’s men? More like the Vineyard Owner, or the worker who complained and even confronted him?

Have you ever heard others (or even caught yourself) looking down on someone who didn’t (or couldn’t) do the same work as someone else (as you)? Why is this attitude inappropriate for a Christian? [Again, look back to Ephesians 2 – but go all the way through verse 10]