FIRST SAMUEL STUDY

CHAPTER 24:1-22

TAPE NUMBER WN-349 FEBUARY 26, 2003

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"LOVING YOUR ENEMIES"

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Enemies, Challenges, Foes, Maturity, Attacks

INTRODUCTION ***to the text*** ***I Samuel 24:1-22***

What Loving Your Enemy is All About!

You would first of all think that

"In serving God and in blessing his people, you wouldn't have any problems or enemies. Yet the exact opposite is true.

It's Kinda Like Relationships

#1

At first there isn't anything wrong – because there is no wrong!

#2

Then there's a little interaction / a spat / discussion

#3
Then There is “The Danger Zone”
Unresolved Issues and Silence and Deep Feelings

Relationship Situations
Can either make you or break you

We Need to Remember That;
God Has His People Living in the Real World

LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

*1.) What loving your enemy **is like** vv.1-7*

It’s Expensive

Matthew 5:43-46
"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

What Loving Your Enemy
Looks Like

*What loving your enemy **is like***

*1**a.)** Your enemy will **act upon false information*** *v.1-2*

Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, ***that it was told him***, saying, "Take note! ***David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi***." 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, ***and went to seek David*** and his men on ***the Rocks of the Wild Goats***.

False Information and Misunderstanding

1 Corinthians 14:33
For God is not the author of confusion but of peace,
as in all the churches of the saints.

Lies and Shadows is Satan's Domain

John 8:42-44
Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

*What loving your enemy **is like***

*1**b.)** You'll **desire to justify** your innocence* *v. 3-4*

So Saul came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.) 4 Then the men of David said to him, ***"This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand,***

that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" (a late night camp fire talk) And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

There is a “Timing” That’s Not of this World.

1 Peter 2:19-21
For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

What Does That Look Like Today, To justify “my” innocence?

It seemed like a fun thing to do

It seemed like the right thing to do

It even seemed like a God-Thing to do

But What would this Accomplish?

*What loving your enemy **is like***

*1**c.)** Your **life will be troubled** by it all* *v.5-7*

What Loving Your Enemy Feels Like

Now it happened afterward (#1) that ***David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.*** 6 And he said (#2) to his men, "(3) The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, (#4) the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, (#5) seeing he is the anointed of the LORD." 7 So David (#6) restrained his servants with these words, and (#7) did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

It's "Obeying" What's Right

Rather Than What "Feels" Right

Emotions can be Fatal

Trouble Weans You From Supports Systems

- Moses in Egypt
- Daniel in Bagdad
- Jonah in the Belly of the Fish

Trouble Weans You From… *Things*

Job and His Troubles are World Famous

LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

*2.) What loving your enemy **does*** *v.8-15*

What Loving Your Enemy Does by Action

*What loving your enemy **does***

*2**a.)** It **sets us free** as we **move in humility*** *v.8*

David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, ***saying***, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, ***David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down***

David Knew Who He Was
in the Flesh and in the Faith

God uses Enemies in our Lives,
to Keep us Humble and Usable and Open

Romans 12:14-21
Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high thing...but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*What loving your enemy **does***

*2**b**.) It **establishes your heart** as you speak the **truth in love***

And ***David said to Saul***: "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Indeed David seeks your harm'? 10 "Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, ***and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'*** 11 "Moreover, my

father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, ***know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you***. Yet you hunt my life to take it.

Notice Here

That the more spiritual one (David) is honoring the position of the less spiritual one (Saul). – *God loves that!*

…'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.

It comes from David, the new kid on the Block

He's Tolerating Saul's Life While Honoring God's Office

Ephesians 4:12-15
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit were given… for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--

*What loving your enemy **does***

*2**c**.) It **reveals** the depth of **true spirituality*** *v.12-15*

"Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. (hey if God what's you taken out – then I yield to God) But my hand shall not be against you. 13 "As the proverb of the ancients says, ***'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.'*** But my hand shall not be against you. 14 "After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A

flea? 15 "***Therefore, let the LORD be judge***, and ***judge between you and me,*** and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand."

Instead of Sticking Out Our Chests Like Roosters, Let's let God be God…

Joshua 24:14-15
"Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! 15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house,
we will serve the LORD."

Not Everything that is "called Christian" is Godly,
And not everything that is done "in the name of God" is Right

It is My Opinion That

Saul was a lost man. I do not think that Saul ever Knew the Lord Personally

He's an Old Testament Picture
of the New Testament Warning

Hebrews 6:4-6
For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

They're Just Sipper and Tasters

Saul Types/ Judas Types

Like a Christian Worker Who's Never Been Transformed

Matthew10:5-8
After choosing his disciples, these twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 "And as you go, preach, (did Judas preach?) Saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 "Heal the sick, (did Judas heal?) Cleanse the lepers, (did Judas cleans the lepers?) raise the dead, (did Judas raise the dead) cast out demons. (Did Judas cast out demons?) Freely you have received, freely give.
(Did Judas give the gospel away?)

Matthew 13:24-30
The Tares
Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 "But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

Tares look just like wheat.
The scary thing is that they have a toxin inside that makes them bitter and unhealthy…

LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

*3.) What loving your enemy **confirms** vv.16-22*

*What loving your enemy **confirms***

*3**a.)** That your **witness** is of God*

So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. 17 Then he said to David: ***"You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil.***

This is not a Converted Man Talking –
this is a tormented man whining!

He Knows in His Head – What is Right,
But has no Life to Live it Out

Saul - in his emotionalism
Confesses the truth about David's life

A tormented man in power, is a sad thing. Here's why - he's in a position that he shouldn't be in, because that's true, he's insecure, unstable, whimsical, always changing his mind. He's up then down like the tide.

These Kind of Leaders

Leave behind them a wake of wounded souls and Broken People
Standing alongside him is usually a very weak man to say YES.
Together they act like their invisible, but inside they are petrified

afraid of everyone, suspicious of everything…

They Can Appear to be Successful
(Saul was Still the King of Israel – and looking good)

Obey God / Have a Good Witness

1 Timothy 6:12-13
Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

The Imminent Return and Our Witness

1 Corinthians 1:4-7
I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

What loving your enemy ***confirms***

*3**b.)** That your **intentions** are of God*

"And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. 19 "For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? ***Therefore may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day.***

David Didn't Need Saul's Blessing. God was going to bless David because David had made the Lord his Aim in Life.

David Sought First the Kingdom

Psalm 27:4
One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

What is your Aim / Intentions?

Psalm 63:1-5
O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. 2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. 3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. 4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

What loving your enemy ***confirms***

*3**c.)** That your **calling** is of God*

Verse 20-22

"And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. 21 "Therefore swear now to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house." 22 So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home,
(but) David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Because When Attacks and Difficulties Come

You want to know for sure that God has called you to do what you're doing.

Never Let People Tell You – You're Called

I Can see you as a pastor, or as a worship leader or a missionary to Hawaii

"Yeah – I Can see me as a missionary to Hawaii too"

Why did David stay at En Gedi?
Because he was called to the ministry, and every ministry begins in the wilderness of life. And it goes downhill from there.

Note The Calling of Paul

- He got first knocked off his horse by Jesus.
- Then he went blind.
- Then we was rejected by the Christians.
- Then he was rejected by the Jews.
- The Pharisees had him beaten nearly to death,
- the gentiles got them stoned to death,
- Rome had him imprisoned
- and then Caeser had his head cut off.

Acts 20:24
"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
(that is Christianity)

Why did he stay at it?

Because he was called

Galatians 1:15-18
But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

I Suggest You Get to the Stronghold Tonight