

Godly Counsel

Gladly Accepted!

#3137 0519 24A

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Theme: **Dealing with Anger—Accepting Advice**

Acts 20:24 *I consider my life worth nothing...*

27 *declare the whole counsel of God*

Romans 12:19 *Avenge not yourselves*

Matthew 15:19 *Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts*

Luke 6:27 *Love your enemies*

Romans 12:18 *As far as it depends on you*

Colossians 3:8 *rid yourselves of... anger, malice, etc.*

1 Samuel 25:13 *Gird ye on every man his sword*

James 1:19 *swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath*

1 Samuel 25:32 *Blessed is the Lord God of Israel who*

The apostle gives this counsel—**NIV Acts 20:24** *“I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”*

If his listeners did not make eternal life, it was *not* because they were not *told* the Truth—**Acts 20:27** *“I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”* It was now up to them what they did with that knowledge!

The apostle always spoke the Truth that God had revealed to him, so now it was their responsibility to *believe* the Gospel, *accept* it into their heart, to see *change* in their attitudes, and then continue to *walk* in faith in Christ by the power of the Spirit.

Rejecting godly counsel results in serious sins—but *accepting* godly advice in humility can save our soul.

David was willing to admit he was wrong when he was. The situation involved King Saul who considered David a threat. The king tried to eliminate his rival. Jealousy *plagued* the king every moment, and he *pursued* David every day.

Jealousy is a powerful emotion used by Satan to destroy souls. When a situation is presented to get revenge—the world says: *Strike them before they strike you.*

Godly advice says **AV Romans 12:19** *“Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay.”*

The world’s advice and the Lord’s advice are *opposite*—but so are the *destinations!*

David could have struck back, but any *revenge* is *rebellion* against God. Seeking revenge *would* forfeit his soul if he would not repent of that wrong course of action.

When David’s bodyguard wanted to strike King Saul for him, **NIV 1 Samuel 24:7** *“David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul.”*

This is a situation where one person makes the right choice so much harm and injury are averted!

When we decide in harmony with the *Word* of God—the effect glorifies the *Son* of God.

Satan always suggests excuses to justify what we could do—but there is no excuse for rebelling against God and no excuse for striking back at someone.

The world says *revenge is sweet*, but the Lord says *forgiveness is right*—and *Christ-like!*

Two options are always presented—the *world’s* way or the *Lord’s* way. David did the *right* thing by rejecting *wrong* advice.

When we meet with temptations of any type—we must always *follow* the Word.

If we are insulted, mistreated, or offended, our *response* will *tell* what is in our *heart*—**AV Matthew 15:19** *“Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts.”*

The world says, *get back at your enemies*; but Jesus says, **AV Luke 6:27** *“Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.”*

Any resentment toward *anyone* must be repented of without delay and with God’s help be taken *out* of our heart.

The Word gives *godly counsel* **Romans 12:18** **NIV** *“As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”*

It depends on *us* because it depends on whether we *choose* to accept *godly counsel* and take a scriptural attitude about something, or we choose *not* to accept it and have an unscriptural attitude about it.

Anger is a deadly sin that *must* be dealt with scripturally—**AV Colossians 3:8** *“Put off all these; anger, wrath, malice,”* etc...

David showed restraint for years when King Saul persecuted him, but David is later tested when Nabal insults him.

Shepherds kept flocks for landowners—in *this* instance, Nabal the *employer* wrongs David the *employee*. King Saul still commands Israel’s army while David and his men fight various tribes in Paran and protect shepherds from bandits.

After shearing, the owner would give compensation to those who protected his men. It was a way of *thanking* those who rendered that service.

David’s men protected Nabal’s flocks and after the shearing they assume that Nabal would reimburse them.

Nabal offers nothing, however. The name *Nabal* means *fool* but his wife, Abigail, **1 Samuel 25:3** **NIV** was *“an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings.”*

Abigail used *common sense* and *good judgment* when dealing with situations—Nabal was fortunate to have her, but he did *not* appreciate her.

David sent his men to Nabal **1 Samuel 25:5-6** NIV, “Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. Say to him: ‘Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!’”

7-8 “When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing—Therefore be favorable toward my young men, since we come at a festive time.

Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.”

They deliver David’s greeting and wait for their paycheck, but Nabal’s answer was much different than they expected.

10-11 “Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days.

Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?”

David had done security work for Nabal, but he receives *evil* for *good*—an *insult* instead of an *increase*. Nabal’s reply put David in a *rage*.

Prior to this incident David had responded scripturally to persecution, but this time his response was much different. The human heart *can* forget; and the sin nature *can* control.

During any temptation we face, the Holy Spirit *must* control our attitude and response. David knew that a *small* step of revenge was a *wrong* step of rebellion—but his anger took control.

This shows that if we meet an insult right *today*—we might *not* tomorrow. Each *day* is another *opportunity* to trust God in faith to do what is right.

David’s men **1 Samuel 25:12** NIV “*Reported every word,*” and David’s verbal *response* reveals his heart *attitude*. AV **13** “*Gird ye on every man his sword.*” 400 warriors against one drunken employer shows that David’s rage was out of control.

He fully intended to settle a score by striking down his enemy—he had forgotten the godly advice...

AV **James 1:19** “*Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath,*” because **20** “*The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*”

Previously David *refused* to lift his hand against the Lord’s anointed, but now he reacts in *anger* to insulting remarks.

The devil would be suggesting to David: *Nabal has no right to treat you like this. He has repaid you evil for all the good you did him. You have a right to strike back!*

David had obviously forgotten his previous reply to King Saul NKJV **1 Samuel 24:15** “*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.*”

This time he wants revenge—NIV **1 Samuel 25:22** “*May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!*”

Satan often tempts people to react in anger, but God keeps saying NKJV **James 1:19-20** “*Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.*”

If *one person* takes a right attitude, change can happen, and souls can be saved.

Abigail gives *godly counsel* when she finds out what took place. One of the servants plead with her as the one who can diffuse a dangerous situation.

NIV **1 Samuel 25:17** “*Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household.*”

Abigail responds immediately. **18-19** NIV “*She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys.*”

Then she told her servants, ‘Go on ahead; I’ll follow you.’”

Meeting David, Abigail NIV **1 Samuel 25:24** “*fell at his feet and said: ‘My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say.’*”

She gives *godly counsel* to restrain David from committing a serious sin. Because one person brings *peace*, many lives are *spared*—and a serious *wrong* is avoided. Abigail was being *salt* and *light* and making a *difference!*

When the Holy Spirit reminds us of an unscriptural *attitude* we have—may God enable us to respond in like manner.

“Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand” 1 Samuel 25:32-33 NKJV.

David *accepted* her *godly counsel*; he *admitted* that he was wrong; and he *repented* of planning revenge.

He obeys godly words WEY **1 Peter 2:23** and “*left His wrongs in the hands of the righteous Judge.*”

By God’s mercy, love, and grace, may we also be able to respond to wrongs in the same way—and may *godly counsel* always be gladly accepted in a *humble* spirit—

AV **Samuel 25:32** “*Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me.*”

Eternity hangs in the balance!



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