

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online/So What About
- B. You ever hate someone? Or ever have someone hate you?

C. My Story with Crazy Mom

II. WE

- A. What's your crazy mom story?
- B. Conflicts
 - 1. We all have that person...
 - a. Someone who tried to get you/ruin you?
 - b. Co-worker/supervisor stab you in the back?
 - c. Someone who abandoned you/betrayed you
 - d. In-law who tries to undermine your relationship
 - e. Maybe it happened at a church?
 - 2. They did something to you and now...
 - a. ...can't stand being around them
 - b. ... you hear something good about them and you have to fight the urge to chime in with "who they really are"?
- C. Reality is...
 - 1. You have every right to be angry
 - 2. You didn't deserve what they did to you.
 - 3. You were good to them and they returned it with hurt.
 - 4. You deserved better. You still deserve better.
 - 5. You have every right to want to retaliate

1. The most ordinary response to an attack is retaliation.

- a. Animals
- b. Kids
- c. Spouses

- D. Might be the reason you stopped going to church.
- E. You know what's coming right? You know the solution I'm going to give you.
 - 1. You're in church... **I'm going to tell you to forgive them.**
- F. We all know... hanging on to all of it let's them hurt you over and over again.
 - 1. It gives them a control over your life that lasts much longer than the offense
 - 2. And holding on to that anger/letting it fester does nothing to them but it can cause serious damage and hurt for you.
 - a. **Like picking at a sore over and over**
- 3. Refusing to forgive is refusing to heal.**
- G. So what do we do?
 - 1. We have legitimate hurt. Legitimate reasons for wanting to get even... give them what they deserve.
 - 2. We know the right answer is forgiving.
 - 3. But it's so much easier to say than to do.
 - 4. I mean they don't deserve to be let off the hook... they don't
 - 5. And is that really any way to live? Just pretending everything is ok?
 - 6. Should I just weakly roll over and let everyone walk all over me?
- H. What we'll see... **Forgiveness is not a sign of weakness. It is the result of courageous trust.**

I. **David** had every right to be bitter and take revenge

III. **GOD (1 Samuel 24)**

A. Context/Background

1. Kills Goliath- Hero
2. Jonathan pledges friendship/loyalty
3. David given higher and higher rank- success
4. Women's song (**1 Samuel 18:7-9**)
5. Saul tries to kill David while he is harping
6. Sends David to fight Philistines hoping he'll be killed
 - a. David just more successful
 - b. Everyone loves him even more
7. Saul uses his daughter as bait
 - a. 100 Philistines- David does the deed
 - b. In-Law problems
8. More and more success
9. Saul tries to spear him again
10. Saul sends men to kill David at his home
11. David goes into hiding--- Goes to Nob
12. Starts a band of merry men
13. Saul kills the priests of Nob- Begins hunting David
14. Each group is on opposite sides of a hill
 - a. Saul gets called away to fight Philistines

15. David has every right to want Saul dead and ruined. Revenge

B. **1 Samuel 24:1-4**

1. En-Gedi = Oasis on western shore of Dead Sea (real places)
2. What would you do?
3. The solution to all of his problems is right there... it's so obvious.
4. But **the ordinary response is usually the wrong response**
5. **Corner of robe**- Could be symbolic declaration of rebellion or of "cutting away the kingdom."

C. **V. 5**

1. Why?
2. Humiliating for Saul... "How dumb are you?"
3. Purposely showing that he is better than Saul
4. Saul was still Israel's king for the time.
5. God had not chosen to take Saul out so he still deserved respect.
6. **Salute the rank not the man.**
7. David for a few minutes wasn't trusting God's timing or goodness.
8. He knew he needed to leave room for God's plan.

9. **The moment you take revenge you give up your right to justice.**

- a. You become just as guilty.
- b. You have lost the moral high-ground
- c. You have not left room for God to work HIS justice.
- d. You've stepped into God's role.
- e. **When the kids hit back---** Gotta now discipline both.

D. V. 6-7

1. "Sharply rebuked"= "Tore them apart with his words"
 - a. Cussed them out so badly that they stood down.
2. "David, what would Saul do in your position?!"
3. "It doesn't matter. I'm not Saul."
4. David not only refuses to kill Saul, but actually saves his life. **He chose to be FOR Saul.**
5. Could've let his men do it and keep his hands clean.
6. He sought the good of the one who sought his life

7. It takes courage to forgive people who are not for you.

E. V. 8

1. What must be going through Saul's mind?
2. Look at David's humility. Put himself lower than his enemy.

F. V. 9-11

1. Doesn't just take it.
2. Communicates his case clearly and honestly

G. V. 12-15

1. Courage to not retaliate comes from his trust in God's justice
 - a. "God knows the truth and will do what's right."

2. In our opinion, David had every right to kill Saul.
3. Was Saul wrong? YES
4. Was it David's job to make it right? NO. It was God's
5. David would not let Saul have power over him and his choices
6. He would not let Saul's evil make him evil.

H. V. 16-19

1. David could have been just like Saul
2. Instead he chose to courageously trust in God's timing and justice.
3. And to be FOR someone who was FOR his destruction
4. And it stunned his enemy into a babbling idiot.
5. Was so out of the ordinary that it literally stopped Saul in his tracks and made him submissive to David.

I. V. 20-21

1. Sees David is right.
2. Confirmation of God's promise
3. Saul is now at David's mercy and in his debt.

4. Romans 12:20

J. V. 22

1. David trusts his case to God but he's also practical.
2. Forgiveness doesn't blind wisdom.

K. Sum Up

1. Saul deserved to die
2. David chose to trust God's justice.
3. He chose to have the courage to forgive and his enemy became a preface to his story.
4. David ultimately became king without having to lift a finger against Saul...dies in battle.

IV. YOU

- A. Do you trust God enough to forgive those who have hurt you?

B. Unforgiveness leads to enslavement

1. You're chained to your hurt which you refuse to let go
 2. It can prevent you from ever healing from the hurt or trauma you experienced.
- C. Unforgiveness hurts you more than the offender.
- D. "But they don't deserve it!"- Neither do you.
1. In the same way that you are hoping for justice against someone who hurt you... someone else is deservedly hoping for justice against you.
 2. We've all hurt others. All broken the law of love... all deserve justice both for and against...
 3. Why Jesus came... fulfill that justice and offer forgiveness to everyone.
- E. We forgive b/c he forgave us.
1. We forgive b/c he forgave them
 2. Justice has already been done.

- F. Forgiveness is not forgetting.

1. When God says he will not remember our sins anymore- He is saying He that He has chosen to never use our past against us.

2. Isn't that amazing?

G. Forgiveness is a deliberate choice to not use a past offense against someone who hurt you.

1. You ARE letting them off the hook... but you're actually letting yourself off the hook too
2. But you are not letting them off of God's hook...

a. Romans 12:19

H. Forgiveness leads to freedom

1. Forgiveness means deciding to live with the consequences of someone's past evil choices
 2. The reality is you have to live with the consequences of another person's choices whether you forgive them or not.
 3. We all live with the consequences of other peoples sins.
 4. The only real choice is to live with those consequences in slavery to bitterness, resentment, anger... OR to live with them in the freedom of forgiveness.
- I. When you are mistreated... you will be.
1. Don't let what they did control what you do.
 2. Refusing to forgive is refusing to heal.
 3. If God is so committed to justice that he made sure every last evil was paid for.... You can trust that he will do what's right and just and loving for you.
- J. When you are mistreated... you get to make a choice... will you let their choices enslave you or will you let forgiveness free you?

K. Choose freedom. Choose to forgive.

- L. Be courageous and be for those who are against you.
 - 1. What can you do to help them succeed?
 - 2. What can you do to make their life better?
 - 3. How do you think they would react?

M. My Story

- 1. Principal took care of things... threatened litigation.

V. WE

- A. How different would this world be if we all chose the freedom of forgiveness?
- B. If we trusted God enough to take care of justice and focused on forgiving just as we have been forgiven?
- C. What if we have the courage to forgive... our parents, in-laws, co-workers, former friends?
- D. What if we showed people we are for them even when they are not for us?
- E. That's the kind of courage that changed the world once and it can do it again.
- F. Anyone can retaliate and keep the cycle going...

G. Defy the Ordinary- Forgive Courageously