

## Sermon Text Discussion 1/27/2019

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I Samuel 25, 26: Retaliation and the Restraining Hand of God (Drew Hunter)

### Overview

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All of us have, at some point, been tempted to retaliate; that is, been tempted to react when offended or hurt, pay someone back for hurting or insulting us, wanting to actively or passively harm someone who has harmed us, or to withhold something of value or a kindness because of a past hurt. For some of us, the temptation to retaliate is even higher when the action causing the temptation is against a loved one.

Many of the stories of David present him as an example of humble and effective leadership. Our story today is different. David almost ruins his life and takes the lives of others because of his own short fuse.

We will learn a lesson of the dangers of the temptation of retaliation through this story of David, Nabal, and Abigail.

### Quotation

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"David was tempted to retaliate, but changed because he was reminded of the truth of God's love and justice."  
Drew Hunter

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) Read I Samuel 25:4-11. What emotions do you feel as you read this passage? Why do you suppose you feel that way?
- 2) David responded to Nabal's reply as many of us would have....quickly took action to aggressively retaliate! What do you suppose would have been the outcome if he had carried out his plan of action?
- 3) The heroine of this story, Abigail, steps into action! What insight does she have to the situation that helps her reframe the dilemma? As she presents her case to David, what elements of her defense do you feel helped change his mind?
- 4) Think of a personal situation in which something happened to you that caused an immediate and strong sense of wanting to retaliate. What did you do? What was the result of your action? What would have been the result if you had taken a different action? Share with your small group.
- 5) How short is your fuse when an action occurs against you that invokes the feeling for retaliation? Share with your small group what strategies you do, or should, use in order to avoid unwise retaliatory actions. What new strategy did you learn from someone in the group you plan to try?
- 6) Do specific individuals come to mind as you think about feelings of bitterness, resentment, or hurtfulness? How can you use the quote above, in a practical way, to deal with these unhealthy feelings?