Homiletics Class Eugene Cheong

14-April-2020 Message 2 of 2

ESV 15 Minutes

**My Enemy, My Friend**

***2 Sam 1***

**Topic:** Love

**Subject:** God wants us to treat our enemies

**Complement:** with love.

**Purpose:** The listeners will treat their enemies with love.

**Reading:** 2 Sam 1:11-12

# Introduction

### Interest: People around the world celebrated when they heard of the death of Osama bin Laden. The death of the person who caused so many other peoples’ deaths seemed to justify that celebration. His greatest act of terrorism was the destruction of the World Trade Centre twin towers in New York. His organization, Al Qaeda, had many other similar terrorist cells around the world aiming to do the same thing to the countries they were in. Right here in Singapore, we were faced with the terrorist threat from Jemaah Islamaiyah (JI). So, when the founder and leader of these terrorist groups was himself killed, the world celebrated his death.

### Need: Do you have enemies, or people you don’t really like? Or do you know of people who really don’t like you and what you stand for? People who mock you for your faith in Jesus Christ, and for believing in him? Do you celebrate their misfortune when you hear something bad has happened to people who have treated you badly?

### Subject: Today, I’ll show you how God wants you to treat your enemies when you hear of their misfortune.

### Background: Whilst Saul was still king of Israel, Samuel had secretly anointed another man, David, to be the king of Israel (1 Sam 16). This was under God’s instructions because Saul had turned away from God and did not obey God’s commandments. After that, David spent a few years of his life running away from Saul’s murderous intents. Saul was intent on killing David. Still, David remained faithful to his king, and to God’s placing him Saul as king. Instead of seizing the throne by force, he refused to “raise his hand against God’s anointed,” even though he had two clear opportunities to rid himself of his tormentor. Now, David hears news of Saul’s death. So how does David respond to the demise of his enemy Saul?

### Preview: In our passage today, you will see three ways that God wants you to treat your enemies.

### Text: These three ways are given to us in today’s text, 2 Sam 1 (text). Please turn to 2 Sam 1 and we’ll read from verse 1. 2 Sam 1.

(Now, the first way God wants you to treat your enemies is to...)

# I. Feel badly about your enemies’ misfortune.

**[Don’t celebrate when something bad happens to your enemy.]**

## We should not rejoice at our enemies’ misfortune.

### [ILL: Let’s say you and someone else in school don’t like each other very much for some reason. It happens, sometimes. There’s just no chemistry between the two of you, and yet you find yourself in the same class taking the same module. What makes it worse is that during one class, that person quite strongly disagreed with your view and pointed out how wrong you were. Then the written assignments are meted out and you find out that the person didn’t get a good grade on it. There’s a human tendency to rejoice at his comeuppance. But that’s not what God wants you to do. If you find out that the person you don’t like didn’t do very well on his assignment, don’t rejoice. Instead, feel bad about his misfortune.]

## David mourned the death of Saul, the person who wanted to murder him on more than a few occasions (1 Sam 18:10-11; 19:1; 19:8-10; 19:11; 23:25-28).

### In 1 Sam, we read of how Saul repeatedly attempts to kill David out of jealousy, and perhaps also because he felt David was a threat to his throne. In 1 Sam 18 and 19, we read of how Saul hurled his spear at him. In 1 Sam 19 and 23 we see him scheming and planning to kill David.

### When David hears of Saul’s death, you can expect him to feel relieved that the running is over. You can expect David to rejoice at the news. But he didn’t. In verses 11-12 of our passage, he did what God wanted him to do, and mourned the death of his enemy. He did this because he knew that despite all his murderous intents against David, Saul was still a king placed on the throne by God.

(So how should you treat your enemy? First, you should feel badly when you enemy falls. The second way God wants you treat your enemy is to...)

# II. Treat the enemy of your enemy as a backstabber.

**[The enemy of your enemy is *not* your friend.]**

## There’s a saying “the enemy of my enemy is my friend”, but that’s not how God wants our attitude to be towards our enemies.

### That phrase is actually an ancient proverb found on a Sanskrit treatise on statecraft. [ILL: In World War II, the Americans and British allied themselves with the Soviet Union in spite of them being their communist enemy. But they all had one common enemy – Hitler and Nazi Germany. After they successfully defeated Hitler, the Soviet Union expanded their territories all the way into Germany. That began another war – the Cold War, this time between the Americans and British, and their former ally the Soviet Union. The enemy of your enemy is *not* your friend!]

### [ILL: In similar fashion, a “friend” may claim to be the enemy of your enemy, but in reality, is setting a trap for you to speak ill of him. Don’t treat the enemy of your enemy as your friend. On the other hand, if you love your enemy like a friend, then you won’t have to deal with all these puzzling relationships.]

## The Amalekite thought he was doing David a favour, but David saw through him and had him executed.

### It is very likely that the Amalekite was seeking some kind of reward from David, by telling David that he was the one who killed Saul. He never expected that David would react in a manner that God wanted him to.

### So, the Amalekite got his *just* rewards, and we see in verses 14-16 that David had him executed.

(The third way God wants you to treat your enemies is to...)

# III. Speak well of the people who despise you.

**[God wants you to praise your enemies.]**

## Do not speak ill of your enemies, whether they be alive or dead.

### ILL: When you speak well of those who have hurt you, it shows how much love you have for them. Just think of how others would think of you if they knew you spoke well of those who despise you. This kind of love can only come from a God who loves those who despise him.

### In Luke 23:34, when Jesus was nailed to the cross, his first words concerning those who had made him suffer and were “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Jesus spoke the language of love to those who despised him.

## David praised Saul.

### Despite the fact that Saul wanted to kill David, David still had great respect for the king of Israel. In David’s mind, Saul was placed there by God, and so was deserving of that respect. Rather than to speak ill of the dead, David praised God and made it known that Israel had lost a king.

### A good half of the today’s passage in 2 Sam 1:17-27 is dedicated to a beautiful eulogy. In it, David expresses his grief but also repeatedly says of Saul, “How the mighty have fallen!”

(So, why would God want you to treat your enemies in those three ways? Because...)

# Conclusion

### God wants us to show love to our enemies [MI]. The way we should treat our enemies is to show love to them [Restated MI].

### Feel badly about your enemies’ misfortune [MPI].

### Treat the enemy of your enemy as a backstabber [MPII].

### Speak well of the people who despise you [MPIII].

### Exhortation: (Matt 5:43-45). Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who hate us.

#### ILL: There will be those who will mock you and despise you just for being a Christian. Don’t hate them back. Don’t rejoice when bad things happen to them. Love them as Jesus has told us to do.

#### ILL: In the COVID-19 situation, people blame Christians for not being socially responsible by going to church. Then they themselves get the virus. Don’t rejoice at that. Pray for them. God wants you to love them.

#### So who is your enemy right now? How can you love that person?

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### In 1 Sam 30, the author records how the Amalekites raided Ziklag (David’s home) and kidnapped David’s wives, and the wives and children of his men. David and his men then attacked the Amalekites and retook everything.

### In 1 Sam 31, the author records the death of King Saul and his sons.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### The purpose of the passage is to show us how David correctly reacts to the news of King Saul’s death.

### The key teaching about God in this passage is that he wants to treat our enemies with love.…

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Whilst Saul was still king of Israel, Samuel had secretly anointed another man, David, to be the king of Israel (1 Sam 16). This was under God’s instructions because Saul had turned away from God and did not obey God’s commandments.

### David “passed the first years of his mandate fleeing Saul’s murderous designs.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Nevertheless, David had always remained faithful to Saul’s rule, and therefore remained faithful to God’s placing Saul as king. Instead of “seizing by force the kingdom promised to him. David remains devoted to the royal family and to the vision of God to provide a stable monarchy.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

### David had two prior opportunities (1 Sam 24 and 1 Sam 26) to kill Saul but refrained from doing so because he would not “raise his hand against the Lord’s anointed.”

### Israel was at war with the Philistines.

### There was great enmity between the Amalekites and David.

# Questions

### Why did the man who came from Saul’s camp have torn clothes and dirt on his head? He was “displaying the customary outward signs of grief,”[[3]](#footnote-3) probably trying to show David and his men that something tragic had happened and he was grieving over it. From the man’s ragged appearance, David could also surmise that “one of the armies had suffered a tragic defeat.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

### Why did he pay homage to David? The man was treating David as royalty. Although he had not yet told his account of Saul’s death, he was already trying to curry favour with David.

### Why did the man’s account of Saul’s death differ from the account in 1 Sam 31? His account and the account in 1 Sam 31 differed in one major area – in the 1 Sam 31 account, Saul kills himself, but in his account, the Amalekite kills Saul at Saul’s request. He lied about this because he wanted to portray himself as the one responsible for advancing David’s becoming King.

### Why did the man reveal himself to be an Amalekite to David? He first revealed it when he was narrating his story. His version of the story had Saul asking him to identify himself before asking the Amalekite to kill him. The Amalekite “implied he acted out of compassion”[[5]](#footnote-5) and not out of malice. It is surprising that the Amalekite revealed his background to David, who had just come back from warring with them at Ziklag.[[6]](#footnote-6)

### Why did the man give Saul’s crown and armlet to David? The crown and armlet are royal insignia, artifacts of royalty. By giving them to David, he “wishes to win favor with the new strong man in the area.”[[7]](#footnote-7)

### Why did David mourn the death of Saul instead of rejoicing that he can now be king of Israel? David was loyal to his king, and remained loyal to the house even up to the king’s death. He was thus “not complicit in his death”,[[8]](#footnote-8) mourned and fasted the whole day. His anguish “was not only for Saul’s death but also for the royal family and because the defeat at Gilboa was indeed a national tragedy”.[[9]](#footnote-9) He had been “forced to flee from Saul’s wrath and live among the Philistines, but he never lost his love and faithfulness for Israel.”[[10]](#footnote-10)

### Why did David ask the man where he came from? David knew the man was an Amalekite (from his account he gave earlier), but he may have wanted to confirm his nationality and status (whether he was a sojourner or not) before taking any further action.

### Why did David execute the Amalekite? Firstly, David executed the Amalekite because an alien sojourner had dared to kill the Lord’s anointed. Secondly, David had been conducting “a holy war campaign against the Amalekites in fulfillment of the Lord’s commands,”[[11]](#footnote-11) and that made the Amalekite an “enemy of the state”.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

The way to react to an enemy’s downfall is not to celebrate it.

The way to view an enemy’s enemy is not as a friend, but as a backstabber.

The way to deal with an enemy’s errors is to let God deal with it.

The way to treat our enemy is to love him.

# Possible Illustrations

### Did the world celebrate when Osama bin Laden was killed? Should Christians celebrate?

# Possible Applications

### Jesus teaches us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matt 5:43-48).

### The enemy of your enemy is *not* your friend.

# Older Outlines of This Sermon Text or Outlines by Others (Books, Commentaries, etc.)

### Text

**My Enemy, My Friend**

***2 Sam 1***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The way that God wanted David to treat his enemies was to mourn Saul’s death, to disregard the Amalekite, and to speak well of Saul.

# I. The manner in which God wanted David to react to his enemy’s death was to mourn for him (1:1-12).

## David showed concern for Saul’s condition in battle (1:1-4).

## David asked for confirmation of Saul’s death (1:5-10).

## David mourned and fasted the whole day[[12]](#footnote-12) in his grief over Saul’s death (1:12).

# II. The way God wanted David to treat his enemy’s enemy is as a backstabber (1:13-16).

## David reconfirmed the identity of the Amalekite (1:13).

## David executed his enemy’s enemy, the Amalekite (1:14-15).

## David treated the Amalekite as a backstabber[[13]](#footnote-13) (1:16).

# III. The way in which God wanted David to speak of his enemy was to praise him (1:17-27).

## David wanted his lament to be taught to all the people of Judah (1:17-18).

## David considered Saul a hero of Israel (1:19).

## David dreaded Philistine joy over Saul’s death (1:20).

## David cursed the mountains of Gilboa where Saul met his death (1:21).

## David sang a lament that praised Saul and Jonathan[[14]](#footnote-14) (1:22-24).

## David lauded Saul as a mighty warrior (1:25).

## David expressed his distress over the death of Jonathan (1:26).

## David reiterated his praise for the fallen Saul and Jonathan (1:27).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will treat their enemies with love.

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Introduction

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### Need: Do you have enemies, or people you don’t really like? Do you celebrate their misfortune when you hear something bad has happened to people who have treated you badly?

### Subject: Today, I’ll show you how God wants you to treat your enemies when you hear of their misfortune.

### Background: Saul was intent on killing David. Still, David remained faithful to his king, he refused to “raise his hand against God’s anointed.” Now, David hears news of Saul’s death. Instead of celebrating his ascension to the throne, David mourns the death of his enemy.

### Preview: I will show you three ways that God wants you to treat your enemies.

### Text: These three ways are given to us in today’s text, 2 Sam 1 (text). Please turn to 2 Sam 1 and we’ll read from verse 1. 2 Sam 1.

(Now, the first way God wants you to treat your enemies is to...)

# I. Feel badly about your enemies’ misfortune.

[You should not celebrate when you know that something bad has happened to your enemy.]

## We should not rejoice at our enemies’ misfortune. [ILL: If you find out that the person you don’t like didn’t do very well on his assignment, don’t rejoice.]

## David mourned the death of Saul, the person who wanted to murder him on more than a few occasions (1 Sam 18:10-11; 19:1; 19:8-10; 19:11; 23:25-28).

(The second way God wants you treat your enemies is to...)

# II. Treat the enemy of your enemy as a backstabber.

[The enemy of your enemy is *not* your friend.]

## There’s a saying “the enemy of my enemy is my friend”, but that’s not how God wants our attitude to be towards our enemies. [ILL: A “friend” may claim to be the enemy of your enemy, but in reality, is setting a trap for you to speak ill of him.]

## The Amalekite thought he was doing David a favour, but David saw through him and had him executed.

(The third way God wants you to treat your enemies is...)

# III. Speak well of the people you dislike.

[God wants you to praise your enemies.]

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## David praised Saul.

### Despite the fact that Saul wanted to kill David, David still had great respect for the king of Israel. In David’s mind, Saul was placed there by God, and so was deserving of that respect. Rather than to speak ill of the dead, David praised God and made it known that Israel had lost a king.

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**Rick Griffith**

2020

Message of 17

**Title**

***Passage***

# Introduction

Subject with a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ blank answer in hidden text

# I. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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# II. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

# Conclusion

### Main Idea has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

### Application question

**Home Group Questions:**

1. Read the passage aloud. Contrast:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Contrast** |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
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1. Text-based question

Text

Text

Text

Text

1. Application to your own Christian experience

Text

Text

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/new-testament-preaching/

1. Craig E. Morrison, *2 Samuel*, Berit Olam (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2013), 23. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Bill T. Arnold, *1 & 2 Samuel*, The NIV Application Commentary: From Biblical Text...to Contemporary Life (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003), 415. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Robert D. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1996), 7; 287. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, 287. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, 287. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. David Toshio Tsumura, *The Second Book of Samuel*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2019), 49. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Morrison, *2 Samuel*, 27. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Morrison, 27. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, 289. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Arnold, *1 & 2 Samuel*, 411. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, 289. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. A. A. Anderson, *2 Samuel*, vol. 11, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1989), 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, 289. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Tsumura, *The Second Book of Samuel*, 57–59. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)