

# Community Group Discussion Questions

“Test of Thrones” 1 Samuel 24 July 29/30

## Getting Started

There will be multiple moments in your life where you will be mistreated, mishandled, maligned and marginalized. These instances are no respecter of person, position, or platform, but how you respond determines person, position and platform! This is why today’s message is the next crucial step of understanding not just leadership, but life.

We are all capable of dishing out and receiving mistreatment. Share with us about a time someone mistreated you and you wanted to get revenge on them. Or, share about a time when you mistreated someone and they wanted to get revenge on you. How did you resolve the issue?

## Going Deeper

The “Test of Thrones” is to choose to do the following:

- I. Resist the Right: 1 Samuel 24:4
  - A. Perfect Opportunity: “Here is the day”
  - B. Popular Opinion: “do to him as it shall seem good to you”

When we are slighted, we often feel perfectly justified in saying, “I have the right to seek revenge.” **READ Romans 12:17-19.** What does God clearly say here?

- II. Regard Regret: 1 Samuel 24:5
  - A. Work of the Spirit: “David’s heart struck him”
  - B. Witness of Scripture: (Num. 15:37–41; Deut. 22:12)

*Special Note:* David’s act could be taken as rebellion against God Himself. Furthermore, the Law of Moses required all robes to have tassels at their corners to remind people of God’s Law.

Just as David finished cutting off a corner of Saul's robe, his conscience convicted him that he should not have done even this small act.

How does your conscience work within you whenever you are struggling with a decision?

**READ** Hebrews 4:12-13 and James 1:2-5.

Where does God want you to go when seeking wisdom on what to do?

III. Respect the Rank: 1 Samuel 24:6-7

- A. Placement of Authority: "my lord"
- B. Purpose of Anointing: "the Lord's anointed"
- C. Plan of the Almighty: "persuaded his men" & "did not permit them"

Though David was just one man, he commanded a large group of men, many of whom were very unhappy with Saul's leadership. David could have used this event to stir them up to riot and revolt against Saul. Instead, he used his leadership to bestow respect on Saul's leadership, flawed though it was. How can God use you to be a calming and godly influence on others who are seeking revenge for wrongs?

IV. Relent from Revenge: 1 Samuel 24:12,15

- A. Let God Arbitrate: "give sentence"
- B. Let God Appeal: "plead my cause"
- C. Let God Avenge: "deliver me"

*Take Away*: God will never waste your Pain: There is a subtle lie from the enemy that 'in revenge one finds rest.' In the words of Joseph and Paul, "what the enemy meant for harm or evil, God meant for good" and "all things work together for good to those who love God and are all called according to His purpose" (Gen. 50:20/Rom. 8:28)

**READ** Romans 12:20-21. These verses teach us that when someone wrongs us, we are to respond not with revenge, but with overwhelming kindness, servant-heartedness, and love. To 'heap burning coals on someone's head' was a cultural expression that meant to share what you have with them, to take coals from your fire, and give them to that person who would carry them back to their house in a metal pan they would hold above their head.' You provide something to them that they lack. In this case, it may be that you demonstrate dignity, restraint, kindness, and peace, when they have shown you none of these things.

Spend some time as a group discussing a few real life situations so that the next time you are mistreated, you can 'overcome evil with good'

### **Group Prayer Requests**

Pray for God to do a miraculous work of cleansing the desire for revenge from the hearts of all those at CBC, so we can overcome evil with good.

Pray for next weekend as we ask people to 'Hold the Rope' by volunteering, and as we invite people to attend the Ice Cream Social on Sunday night where they can find out more about how to get involved with a group.