

**Recap of 8/31/25 message by Pastor Steve Plank  
("Blessed Way Out") 1 Samuel 25:1-44:**

*As we saw in chapter 24, David is unwilling to take his own vengeance against Saul, who is trying to kill him. David was well aware of God's admonition in Deuteronomy 32:35 (repeated in Ro 12:19) that vengeance belongs to the LORD. In fact, he uses this principle as the reason he does not act against Saul in both 1 Sa 24 and 26. However, in this passage, David is upset enough to disregard God's command and is intent on killing every male in Nabal's household. Fortunately, God is actively protecting His servant David against not just his enemies, but also himself. God sends Nabal's wife, Abigail, to intervene before David carries out his intent. David recognizes Yahweh's intervention and praises Him for His gracious protection.*

*There are several important lessons we learn from David's experience. First, we are reminded that we are not to take our own revenge. Instead, we are to allow room for God to act. Nobody ever gets away with anything; God's justice is perfect. We can and should leave justice to Him. Second, anger is dangerous. Anger is not sin itself but often leads us to sin. James 1:19-20 tell us to be slow to anger because our anger does not accomplish God's righteousness. David's anger at being insulted led him toward the sin of revenge by mass murder. Nabal's anger cost him his life. Fortunately, God restrained David which leads us to the third major lesson. God provides a way out, a way of escape, when we are tempted to sin (1 Co 10:13). We must be diligent to seek and follow God's way out. Ultimately, when we succumb to temptation, i.e. sin, it is because we willfully ignore God's way out. David showed that he is a man after God's heart by recognizing and accepting God's intervention.*

*Finally, refusing to take our own retribution against evil does not mean that we don't hate evil. We despise evil, but God tells us not to repay evil with evil, but to overcome evil with good (Ro 12:19-21). We should pray against evil and evildoers. We should pray for God's vengeance on evildoers, but we should also pray that they come to know God's salvation in Jesus Christ before His vengeance overtakes them.*