

Recap of 3/8/26 message by Joe Ricchuiti
(“Trust God’s Will...Plan Wisely”) 2 Samuel 15:13-16:14:

1. Chapter 15 [of 2 Samuel] depicts one of the most painful experiences in the life of David, and one of the critical times in the life of Israel. (Chafin)
- “Such were the strokes of the Father’s rod that fell thick and fast upon His child. They appeared to emanate from the malignity and hate of man, but David looked into their very heart and knew that the cup that they held to his lips had been mixed by heaven and was not the punishment of a Judge but the chastisement of a Father.” (Meyer)
2. David responded to his reversal of fortune with faith in God and surrender to God’s discipline in his life. He did not blame God or blame others.
3. God provided loyal, encouraging friends and counselors to sustain him during this dark period.
4. David responded successfully to his enemies by:
 - Choosing not to take offense.
 - Choosing to keep his eyes on God rather than his critics.
 - Choosing to not answer back in kind.
 - Choosing to not take revenge.
5. Chuck Swindoll suggests that in dealing with our critics/enemies, we develop a thick layer of skin.
--“When you walk through thorns, you need to wear heavy boots. Likewise, when you walk in the path of people whose words nettle you, you’ve got to develop thick skin. Ask God to substitute your China doll feelings with tough-skinned resilience.”