



1. Sunday Summary: This morning we continued our series on *The Life of David*. Specifically, we explored the story of David, Nabal and Abigail. In the story David is insulted, snubbed, and hurt by Nabal's refusal to compensate David and his band of followers for the protection they've been providing the wealthy landowner. His pride is also wounded, so much so that he's ready to take his men and slaughter Nabal's whole household. Abigail, Nabal's beautiful and intelligent wife intervenes, keeping David from committing murder. She reminds David of who and who's he is, and that it's only the Lord's right to judge, and furthermore that David has been the recipient of the great mercy of God. This story hits us close to home. How many of us want to take matters into our own hands when we've been hurt and insulted? Like David the only thing that can really keep us from going through with it, is to understand the mercy we've been shown, and like David we are held in the "bundle of the living."

2. Connecting Questions: (Interactive, life sharing, thought & feeling type stuff)

- Share a time with the group when were insulted, or hurt by someone's actions, and you were tempted to (or even did) take matters into your own hands? Did it help?

- If you didn't take matters into your own hands, have you been able to let it go... or in the words of the sermon, have you been able to "put down your sword?"

- What insights from today's message were most helpful for you?

3. Truth Questions: (What does the Bible say?)

- Read Matthew 18:21-35 – How is this parable similar to the story of David, Nabal and Abigail? How is it different? As Reformed Christians we believe we can't lose our salvation (Perseverance of the Saints), but this parable seems to suggest that we can if we don't forgive others. So which is true? How would you reconcile those things?
- Read Romans 8:12-17. How does (or could) knowing that you are a child of God, change your behaviour? How does it help you to grow in holiness?

4. Formation Questions: (Taking it further, How does the Truth change the way I live?)

- What concrete steps can you make to sink the truth of the gospel deeper into your life this week? Specifically, what will you do to “put down your sword” this week?
- Think of someone that's hurt you. How will you let that go this week? Think about what you can do to make a move toward reconciliation.

5. Resources for Further Study:

1. Peterson, Eugene H. *Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians* (Harper Collins Publishers, New York, NY, 2011).

