



The Lord Rewards
28th in the “God’s King” Series
1 Samuel 26
February 19, 2023
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage, God reveals how his judgments and rewards are a gift and guide to the Christian.

The Text: 1 Samuel 26

Key Statement in vv. 23-24:

²³ The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed. ²⁴ As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord value my life and deliver me from all trouble.”

Based on David’s statement in v. 23, why are God’s judgment and reward important for the Christian?

1) It gives meaning to our lives.

Ecclesiastes 12:13: ¹³ Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

2) It gives definition to human action and declares things good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:14: ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

3) It helps us control our sinful urges and crave the most important things.

Galatians 6:7-8: ⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

4) It motivates us to live for God and for others.

Galatians 6:9-10: ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Response

Hear this, Christian: “The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness.”

Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.

- 1) 1 Sam 26 is almost identical to 1 Sam 24 – David catches Saul at a vulnerable moment, is told by his companions that God has given Saul to David, does not do evil to “the Lord’s anointed,” and then confronts Saul and makes his case. Why would the Bible record two nearly identical stories, and how might the things the Bible emphasizes or talks a lot about be its own lesson for us?
- 2) Near the end of our text is the main point of its message: “The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness” (v. 23). What does this truth tell us about God, and what does this truth tell the Christian about the life they live?
- 3) This passage raises the topic of God’s judgment of all evildoers and God’s reward for the righteous. How can Christianity be based on faith and not works and yet include the demand of “righteousness and faithfulness” for the Christian?
- 4) How should the fact of God’s judgment give comfort to the Christian as they suffer from the wicked? How should the fact of God’s reward motivate the Christian to live in a way that obeys and honors God?
- 5) In what other ways, if any, did this passage speak into your life to teach, rebuke, correct, or train you in righteousness (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16).

Further study this week: Passages related to the message of this week’s text: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (Mon); Galatians 6:7-10 (Tues); Matthew 12:33-37 (Wed); Revelation 20:11-15 (Thurs); Matthew 6:19-21 (Fri).