

# set APART



## SET APART TO HONOR.

We know that as Christians, we're supposed to love our enemies. And don't get me wrong, that's no easy task. But what if we're called to *honor* them too?

In the dictionary, honor is defined as to "regard with great respect." But in our culture, we often live by the mentality that, "respect has to be earned."

We don't see this in the story of David, Jonathan, and Saul, however. In fact, Jonathan honored David, even though he knew David was anointed to take his place as king. And David honored Saul, even after Saul threw spears at him. *Twice.*

Jesus followers are to be set apart as people who honor others - even when those people do not honor us back, even when they don't deserve it, even when it costs us.

We do this because they're human beings - created and loved by the same God who created and loves us. We do this because no one is too far gone to be saved by God. We do this because that kind of honor is an incredible reflection.

What kind of impact could that kind of honor have on the world?

# IN THE BIBLE.

## **1 Samuel 18:**

David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand, and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice.

## **1 Samuel 24**

3 At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave!

4 “Now’s your opportunity!” David’s men whispered to him. “Today the Lord is telling you, ‘I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.’” So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul’s robe.

5 But then David’s conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul’s robe. 6 He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn’t attack the Lord’s anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him.” 7 So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.

After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way, 8 David came out and shouted after him, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him.

9 Then he shouted to Saul, “Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? 10 This very day you can see with your own eyes it isn’t true. For the Lord placed you at my mercy back there in the cave. Some of my men told me to kill you, but I spared you. For I said, ‘I will never harm the king—he is the Lord’s anointed one.’”

## **Romans 12:10**

10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

# QUESTIONS.

1. How did David honor Saul?
2. What does it look like to honor those people who haven't "earned" it?
3. What kind of impact could we have on the world if we started living out Romans 12:10? What does that kind of life look like day to day?

**Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:**

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?