

Steal the Spear

A five-day devotional · From Pain to Purpose, Week 5 · Union City Wesleyan Church

Take one page a day this week. Each one picks up where Sunday left off — read the verse, sit with it a minute, and answer the question honestly. It will take about five minutes.

DAY 1 — MONDAY

The Offense Nobody Committed

So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

1 Samuel 18:9 NLT

The army came home and the women came out singing. Saul struck down his thousands, David his ten thousands. That is just how Hebrew victory songs are built — the second line always goes bigger than the first. It is how the thing rhymes. Nobody was ranking anybody.

Saul heard a coronation for somebody else.

Watch how fast it moves. Verse 8, he is angry. Verse 9, he installs a jealous eye — and the Hebrew there is not describing a mood he was in. It is a lens. Once it is in, everything a person does starts looking like evidence. By verse 11 there is a spear in the air.

Here is the uncomfortable part. The offense was never in the song. It was in Saul's ears. Most of the stories we are carrying about people were written by us, about them, without them in the room.

Before this week gets going, it is worth asking whether the thing you are still angry about is something they actually did — or something you heard.

THINK

What story have you written about someone lately without ever asking them if it was true?

PRAY

Lord, show me where I have been filling in the gaps with the worst version of somebody.

DAY 2 — TUESDAY

A Door With a Foot In It

Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

Ephesians 4:26–27 NLT

Paul does not say anger is a sin. He says do not let it stay overnight, because that is how something else gets a foot in the door.

Try closing a door with a boot wedged in it. You cannot. You can lean on it all day and it will not latch. That is what unchecked anger does — it holds the thing open just wide enough.

God did not install the bitterness in Saul. Saul did that. But the anger he refused to deal with on Monday left a door cracked, and by Tuesday something had walked through it.

That is not a warning about being an angry person. It is a warning about being a person who lets it sit. Most of us are not carrying one enormous wound. We are carrying eleven small ones we never closed the door on, and they add up to a man who cannot hear a song without hearing a threat.

You probably know exactly which door is standing open right now.

THINK

What are you still angry about tonight that you were angry about last month?

PRAY

Father, I don't want to hand the enemy a foothold. Help me close this one today.

DAY 3—WEDNESDAY

He Went Back to the Stronghold

Then Saul went home, but David and his men went back to their stronghold.

1 Samuel 24:22 NLT

Saul had just wept. He called David his son. He said out loud that David was the better man and that the kingdom was going to be his.

And David went back to the stronghold anyway.

He did not go home with him. And two chapters later Saul was hunting him again with three thousand men — which means David's caution was not bitterness. It was accuracy.

If somebody ever handed you a verse and told you to reconcile with a person who never repented, and told you that your hesitation was unforgiveness — that was not the Bible. That was 1 Samuel 24 without verse 22.

Forgiveness is your part. You can do that today, alone, without their permission and without their apology. Reconciliation takes two, and it may never come. That is not your failure.

Counterfeit forgiveness is not hatred. It is a tearful conversation that changes nothing and gets called peace.

THINK

Is there a relationship where you have confused 'I forgave them' with 'it has to go back to how it was'?

PRAY

God, let me release this person completely — and give me wisdom about how close to stand.

DAY 4—THURSDAY

Somebody Else Has That Job

He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

1 Peter 2:23 NLT

David is standing over a sleeping man with a spear stuck in the ground beside his head, and Abishai is whispering the thing we all wish somebody would whisper. Let me. Once. It will not even be on your hands.

David says no — and his reason is not that he is over it. His reason is a question about guilt. Who can attack the LORD's anointed and stay innocent?

Then he takes the spear and walks away. He does not throw it back. He does not start carving one of his own. He steals it and leaves.

Jesus did the same thing on a much bigger scale. When it was done to him he was silent — though notice he flipped tables over injustice done to somebody else. He was not passive. He was just not his own attorney.

Forgiveness is not saying it did not matter. It is saying it matters so much that it deserves a higher court than the one you convene in your head at midnight.

You are not your own defender. God is. That job is filled.

THINK

What case are you still arguing — to coworkers, to family, to yourself?

PRAY

Lord, I'm handing you the verdict on this. You judge it. I'm done trying to.

DAY 5 — FRIDAY

Put the Spear Down

So David took the spear and jug of water that were near Saul's head.

1 Samuel 26:12 NLT

David walked out of that camp carrying a spear he refused to throw. That is the whole thing.

So name it. One offense. Not the list — one. Say it out loud to God this morning and hand him the verdict on it.

And if you have been sitting here all week thinking you should be further along than you are, hear the difference between a heart that says never and a heart that says I want to and I can't yet. God is not standing over you with a stopwatch. He is not disappointed in the pace. He will walk you into it. He just will not let you call that wall righteousness.

If you have never been forgiven by God yourself, start there — that is the door everything else comes through, and it is open this morning.

You do not have to forgive by gritting your teeth. You forgive because you have been forgiven, and because the God who was already anointing a shepherd boy in a back field while Saul was throwing spears is still arranging things you cannot see.

Put the spear down. You don't have to move back in.

THINK

What is the one offense you are going to hand God today — and who could pray with you about it?

P R A Y

Jesus, thank you that you absorbed the spear instead of throwing it. Teach me to walk out of the camp with my hands empty.