



CHURCH OF THE
Good Shepherd

MAY 25, 2025

Sermon Discussion Questions: 2 Samuel 24:1-4, 10-19

1. The Antidote to Violence The Croatian theologian Miroslav Volf argues that “the practice of nonviolence requires a belief in divine vengeance.” How does this challenge our typical Western assumptions about God’s judgment? Can you think of situations where believing in God’s ultimate justice might actually prevent cycles of retaliation?

2. Obedience vs. Agreement The sermon distinguished between obeying God and merely agreeing with Him, using the parent-child analogy. Share about a time when you struggled to obey God’s word when you couldn’t see the “why” behind it. What made the difference between agreeing with God and actually obeying Him?

3. Modern Idols of Power David’s sin was making an idol out of military and economic power rather than trusting God. The sermon lists ways modern Christians might do the same thing (prioritizing comfort over calling, embracing cultural idolatry, etc.). Which of these resonates most with your own struggles? How do we practically “trust in the name of the Lord” rather than our own security measures?

5. Repentance as Spiritual Maturity The sermon argues that “the more spiritually mature you are, the faster you repent” and “chief believers are chief repenters.” How does this challenge common assumptions about spiritual growth? What would it look like for repentance to become “something that sweetens your life instead of embittering it”?

6. Trusting God’s Hands vs. Human Hands When given three choices for judgment, David chooses to “fall into the hands of the Lord” because “only in the hands of the Lord will I find mercy.” What areas of your life are you currently trying to keep in human hands (your own or others’) rather than trusting to God’s merciful hands?

7. The Mountain of Substitution The connection between Mount Moriah (Abraham and Isaac, David’s census, and ultimately the cross) reveals God’s pattern of providing substitutes. How does understanding this progression change your view of God’s character when He seems stern or demanding?