

1. **Launcher:** How much restraint could you exercise if your enemy was in your hand? How would you speak to them? What would you say? What would you do?

2. **Worship God** – Romans 12:14-21

Worship the LORD who is merciful and gracious. Praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His sovereign goodness and miraculous kindness to redeem people like us when we have been His enemies.

3. **Sermon Reflection: “David’s Mercy & Self Control”**

What is an Enemy?

- How can we define an enemy and how are we called to trust the LORD in our response to them?
- Why is “explaining” or “using words” a counterproductive strategy when engaging with an enemy?
- Where have you found yourself like Saul? Have you ever moved aggressively towards an enemy and left feeling humiliated and humbled?

Enemies Reveal What Is in Us

- What comes out of you in the presence of your enemies? (Think: Pressure)
- What does our world feed us in how to respond with an enemy?
- Describe the difference between good and evil—specifically, what is the strategy of both sides when it comes to humans? (Good: The LORD; Evil: Screwtape Letters)

Humility and Awe Before The LORD

- How was Saul shamed by David’s integrity and humbled?
- Why does God tell us to love our enemies? (Re-read Romans 12)
- How does the Gospel relieve and refresh us in conflict? What is our debt to each other compared to our debt with our Maker?
- Pray at the joy of receiving Communion this morning! Link together the intimacy of the Table with our sermon today. Christ dies for us while we were still sinners—aka enemies! (Romans 5:7-8)

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**

1. Worship the LORD who is merciful and gracious. Praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His sovereign goodness and miraculous kindness to redeem people like us when we have been His enemies.
2. How have you lived expediently, giving yourself over to pragmatism and self-interest? Confess your unbelief to Jesus asking Him to forgive you for doubting His goodness and persuade you of His trustworthiness.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His restraint to not destroy you in your sin. Thank Him for bearing the wrath you deserve and for empowering you to be able to love your enemies (as He has loved you when you were His enemy).
4. Who do you know that is defined by bitterness or desire for revenge? Ask the Lord to help them and to soften their heart to trust in His providence rather than to live bitterly or with a heart of vengeance.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to find such joy and delight in God’s mercy to you that it fills you with an eagerness to love others, even those who may mistreat you. Pray for the Spirit’s fruit of love!

5. **Mission: Our mission as Christians is to first and foremost, be disciplined in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then, we must ask ourselves, “Who is our enemy right now?”**

- a. Identify who it is that you are viewing through a negative grid.
- b. Pray for them. And ask the Spirit to give you ways where you can love them through works and actions, and not words.

