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Lesson 113: 2 Samuel 20:11-26 Wisdom and Power

Read Leviticus 19:17-18. What is God's command here for treatment of our brothers and neighbors?

Why would God finish this statement with "I am the Lord"?

Read Deuteronomy 32:34-43. What is the theme of this song?

Whose side would you want to be on, God's or His enemies'? If you are on God's side, would you assume that you were better able to handle His and your enemies?

Why or why not?

Read Psalm 58:10-11. Why would the righteous rejoice in seeing the destruction of the wicked?

What is the conclusion mankind will reach?

Read Romans 12:14-21. How are we to treat those who attack or persecute us?

What is our attitude and motivation to be?

What would that look like if you found yourself being mocked for your belief?

What would that look like if you saw your persecutor in need of help, be it on a project at work or with food to feed their family?

Is that a natural, human reaction? Why or why not? If not, where does that reaction come from?

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10. One day, Christ will return. What kind of judgment will God judge with?

What will God repay?

What will Jesus inflict in fire?

What will they suffer?

Does this sound like simply "ceasing to exist"?

Why, then, do Paul and his fellow ministers pray for the church in Thessalonica?

Read Matthew 10:26-33. Who should we fear?

How much value does God place on us, His people?

How do you react to the knowledge that God knows the number of hairs on your head?
Why?

There will be a day of judgment. And God is just to judge the hearts of men, and to repay the appropriate punishment or reward. How does knowing the final destination for all those who deny Christ help you to pray for your enemies?

As you spend time with God today, consider how your actions have been as those of Joab or as those of Christ? Do you bless those who persecute you, or do you seek revenge? It may be by smearing their reputation, or through gossip or even through a direct attack, but if your actions are directed against a person or group of people, I would challenge you to re-read Romans 12 and to consider your actions in light of that passage. Remember, Paul was an enemy of God, approving the murder of Christians, yet God redeemed Paul. That enemy of yours may one day be your brother or sister in Christ; will you be able to accept them as such if God were to work in that way in their lives? If not, take the time to talk to God about your heart and ask Him to help you to forgive and learn how to bless those who persecute you.