

Feb 16, 2014

1 Samuel 24, John 6:14-15

*"When Good Costs You"*

Better understanding and good design provide shortcuts that change the world (communications, transport, manufacture, etc). How much easier is living now than it was 200 years ago? List some of the not-always-good human side effects of our amazing technological shortcuts.

The Bible encourages us to work hard AND smart (Ecclesiastes 11:2, 6; Prov 26:10). Where is the place that working smart becomes a sinful shortcut (Lev 19:13b)? How do we teach our children about that?

Think through and describe how it is that many sins are simply shortcuts (Acts 8:18-22; James 4:1-3).

What might have happened, good and bad, had David taken the opportunity to end Saul's life when he had the chance? What did David suffer by not taking the shortcut? What did he gain?

What could Jesus have avoided by taking up the offer to be king of all the earth in Luke 4:5-7? Who did He decide to serve instead of Himself (Isaiah 53:4-5)? What did Jesus suffer by not taking the shortcut? What did he gain?

What shortcuts do you now wish that you had passed up? What price have you paid for passing up shortcuts? What have you gained?