

Discussion Questions for “Overlooked Wisdom: Surprising Repentance”

1 Kings 20-21 (Reading: 21:17-24), Pastor Tom Olson, Weekend of November 8th & 9th, 2025

Sermon Outline

God’s persistence (1 Kings 20:13, 28).

- Tests our hearts.
- Encourages us to pray.
- Calls us to salvation.

God’s mercy (1 Kings 21:28-29).

- Doesn’t eliminate all of sin’s consequences.
- Honors imperfect repentance.
- Surprises us.

Sermon Questions

1. Briefly, to set up your discussion, try to add up all the ways that God sought to prove Himself to King Ahab from 1 Kings 16 to 1 Kings 21.
2. Does it bother you, at all, that God is so persistent with a wicked king like Ahab? Why or why not?
3. Is there anyone whose salvation you’ve been praying about for a *long* time?
 - a. Would you be willing to share *who*?
 - b. Has it been difficult or easy to keep praying?
 - c. How is God’s persistence in today’s passage an encouragement to you?
 - d. (Take some time to pray, as a group, for the people you mention before your time together ends today!)
4. Why is God being *merciful* when He allows us to experience *some* of the consequences of our sin?
 - a. Have you ever experienced this first-hand? What were you doing? And why was it kind of God for Him to let you experience the consequences?
 - b. Have you ever had to do this with a family member or friend – letting them learn the hard way by experiencing the consequences of their actions?

(Questions continue on next page.)

5. Why is it also merciful of God to honor imperfect repentance, as He does with Ahab?
 - a. What would be the problem, for us, if He didn't?
 - b. How does His honoring of *imperfect* repentance draw us into *deeper* repentance?
6. Take some time to praise God for how He's been merciful to you. Try to think of some *surprising mercies*, in particular.
7. Any other takeaways from this passage or message?