

Friends and Foes (part 2)

Intro

- Very few people finish well, like Joshua, Joseph, Caleb...and David
- David showed a remarkable trust in God from 1 Samuel 16 on
- David's laments in the Psalms he wrote took place during the 10-15 years that Saul sought to kill him
- How David responded to Saul's attacks reveals why God chose him.
- It also reveals something of how God works:
 - When David's son, Solomon, built the temple, the stone was tooled in the quarry (1 Kings 6) so no sound of hammering or chiseling was heard on the Temple Mount.
 - So much of God's shaping us happens before we're ever entrusted with what He intends for us as we're fit together, a living Temple.

"Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well. When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?"
And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David. The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed from Saul. So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him. When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns." (1 Samuel 18:5-16)

- Jealousy and selfish ambition are at the heart of Saul's torment and his hatred of David
- James 3:16: "For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind."

Understand the difference between Anointed and Appointed.

The importance of understanding and properly responding to the issue of authority in our lives will determine blessing, protection, and maturity.

- David was anointed as a young man, but had not yet been appointed to the throne.
- David didn't try to usurp the throne before God's appointed time
- God does not work through rebellion or lawlessness, but ideally through mutually submitted relationships that are healthy

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*“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, **whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.**” (Romans 13:1-2)*

*“For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. **Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.**” (1 Samuel 15:23)*

**Whenever we say we are submitted it comes with a test.
Submission is not an issue until you don't want to do it.**

The Four Tests of Submission to Authority:

The Arrogance Test

*“David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.” Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” But David said to Saul, **“Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock...”** (1 Samuel 17:32-34)*

- David doesn't express arrogance
- He appeals righteously to Saul's challenge, “Your servant...”
- David could have leveraged his anointing (from the previous chapter, 16), but he humbled himself before Saul's authority.
- If authority exists for no other reason, it is there to keep us humble and to keep us from destroying ourselves through pride.

The Abuse Test

*“But an evil spirit from the Lord came on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the lyre, Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. **That night David made good his escape.**” (1 Samuel 19:9-10)*

- The phrase “*That night David made good his escape*” is there for a reason:
- David did NOT:
 - Let Saul kill him, becoming a passive target of abuse.
 - Kill Saul and take the throne.
- All authority is imperfect and God expects us to submit to it even when we have to suffer. We all suffer to some extent.
- The line is drawn when suffering turns to abuse:
What is uncomfortable versus what is damaging?
- How do you deal with abusive authority?
 - You have to take action
 - You always appeal up, but with the right heart
 - You never stay and cause rebellion
 - Always report criminal activity to the proper authorities
 - You remove yourself from the abusive situation

The Advantage Test

- What do you do when you have the advantage?
- Physical, intellectual, spiritual, financial, legal, political, sexual, etc.
- God expects us to use whatever advantages we have to respect and serve those above us, because all of us are superior in some way to our authorities.
- Dan and Diane McCollum (in their 70s with extensive ministry experience/influence) submitted to Randy and Sandy in their 20s. Loved, led, and served “up” from superior advantage.

Dan and Diane Meenan (in their 70s with extensive ministry experience/ministry), submitted to Randy and Sandy in their 20s. Loved, led, and served “up” from superior advantage.

The Association Test

“Do not be misled: ‘bad company corrupts good character.’”

(1 Corinthians 15:33)

- Don’t rebel vicariously.
- Don’t be pulled into the sin of others who rebel against authority.

The Question “Test”: When you look in the mirror, do you see a Saul or a David?

Discussion Questions

- 1) Pastor Randy began talking about David’s uncommon response to difficult and discouraging circumstances. What do you think was key to David’s trust in God?
- 2) Why do you think it was healthy for David to express his frustration about his circumstances directly to God in the Psalms he wrote—like 13 for example? How does that Psalm end? Why is that important?
- 3) According to the sermon, what is the relationship between the “...evil spirit (who) came forcefully on Saul” (18:10) and the jealousy that David’s success stimulated in Saul? What lesson(s) can we take from this, especially in light of James 3:16?
- 4) How do you understand the difference between anointing and appointment in the story of David and Saul? How do you see the difference in your own life?
- 5) Why is it so difficult for us to submit to authority? When is submission good? When can it be bad?
- 6) Randy identified four tests for submitting to authority:
How would you apply these in your life?
 - *The Arrogance Test: Is submission hindered by arrogance?*
 - *The Abuse Test: Has submission led to abuse?*
 - *The Advantage Test: Are your advantages hindering submission?*
 - *The Association Test: Are you submitting to those who will lead you into sin?*
- 7) What do you think of this statement? One of the reasons we’re under authority is to keep us from pride?
- 8) Randy taught that it is okay to remove your self from a situation where you’re under abusive authority. How do you make that determination? What were some of the practical steps outlined in the sermon?
- 9) How does Jesus’ submission to the Father (John 6:38; 5:19, Philippians 2) help shape your understanding of how you can experience submission in a good sense?