

Sept 6th 2009: Father's Day: 1 Samuel 24: God's Man Makes Godly Choices

To a great degree....today is about men: Father's....Grandfathers....potential fathers which fits in really well..... with the story of David.....looking at.....found in 1 Sam 24

For in this chapter.....we find David making a Godly choice.....that was both difficult....costly ...and there is no doubt.....that families today....churches....communities.....need**Godly men** who are prepared to make Godly choices

READ 1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 24

This is an up to date story...when you think about it. →**In Afghanistan**...Taliban groups...

David was a rebel leader.....leading a group of dissidents.....hiding out in the mountains...caves **and** what we see in this chpt.....is **David being** given a chance.....that any Taliban leader **would happily give all he owned in.....for!**.....

For us

to truly understand the pressure David was under.....we need to quickly glance.....at previous and see what has been happening for David.....and to David....prior to this incident.

- **In 21....David**—knowing that Saul is determined to kill him—runs for his life

he goes to the Tabernacle.....and there he collects Goliath's sword
And thenknowing that he is most in danger in Israel.....(Spies)....fleas to a Philistine stronghold

Soon finds... frypan into the fire.....pretends to be a mad man....**Escapes** back to Canaanite area of Judah....to the cave of Adullam.....**It's there that his followers** increase:- 1 Sam 22:1-2

When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

It is during this time that two things happen for David.....confirm him as God's instrument

First: God's prophet Gad...attaches himself.....gives David directions from God.

Second: The Priest of God joins David—Ephod ...The sacred way that kings discovered God's will
He joins David.....because of the wickedness....bloodshed of king Saul (22)

The important thing for us to note.....is that from that time on it seems.....from events 23.... David never made a major decision.....without first asking God tho the Ephod...

And the result of following God's way.....was in David being used to help God's people
But also it put him right in the place where Saul could easily find him....

and it wasn't long before David was facing absolute destruction.....
because He made.....godly choices →23:26-28

When Saul heard this, he went into the Desert of Maon in pursuit of David.
Saul was going along one side of the mountain, and David and his men were on the other side, hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his forces were closing in on David and his men to capture them,

Being led by God in your decision making.....doesn't guaranteeeasy road
Many a Missionary can testify to that.....**But** they will also tell you.....that God always..last word

→the passage goes on to say:-

a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Come quickly! The Philistines are raiding the land." Then Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to meet the Philistines.

So David went off to the strongholds of En Gedi.....and for a time was safe
But soon King Saul returned.....as determined to kill David as ever: 24:1-2 says

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats.

The info Saul received.....was obviously really good.....for King Saul came...w/out knowing it
Right to the cave where David and his men were hiding out

Now caves in that area.....4,000 men

When he went into it to relieve himself.....Saul had no feeling whatsoever....that David→**legend**

• **Imagine the scene**.....David and his men see Saul come in
Saul takes off his cloak....places it out of the way....Does his business....**Perhaps** lays down..nap
His men see this as a fantastic opportunity.....for David to take the crown

and pretty soon all...are suggesting to David.....that God has put Saul's life in David's hands
And that God's will is for David to take it.....and to kill Saul
That's a huge amount of pressure on David.....**People** saying—but this is what God wants
always is

And David nearly gave in to it.

He crept up unnoticed.....and cut a corner of Saul's robe

I believe that when David started crawling towards.....**his** intention was to kill Saul
It was only at the last moment.....decided to cut.....instead
That's why David was so conscience stricken.....**Because** he knew how close he had come
to doing something.....that would have been so wrong in God's sight

- **It may have given him**...instant answer to his problem

It would have satisfied his troops...made him a hero.....**Nothing** less than Saul would have done
But deep in his heart he knew it was wrong.

As men...women....young people....who belong to Jesus.....we too must make Godly choices
and there are times.....when the pressure is on us.....to make the wrong choice

The pressure from others.....From those who suggest it's ok**Even** that it's godly....
...can be overwhelming

The pressure from within.....that rationalizes.....justifies.....excuses.....**is** even worse

And the devil especially knows the weaknesses of Christian men.....& the negative impact....

Just a little bit of pornography.....is not a godly choice

To swear and curse and use foul language....as long as one doesn't.....is not a godly choice

To control the lives of others....for our own satisfaction

To drink too much....even only occasionally.....**or** to put the families finances at risk...is not

To say no to ministry....when God wants us to say yes.....whatever pressure others place

Is not a godly choice.....

But neither is saying yes....because of pride...fear...**when** God wants us to say no

*(I have spoken to Christian men.....seemed so godly.....but they have left.....gone off
And they have said.....But we were clearly made for.....And the circumstances just led us....
...we didn't even seek it.....It must be of God.....But it was not a godly decision)*

David's story teaches us....How hard it sometimes is....to make the godly

And also....that making the godly.....can sometimes....cause the situation to become worse b4

Because David made the godly decision.....He had to admit his weakness openly.....and then had to argue his men out of killing Saul

David had to stand up for his enemy against his friends

He then had to put himself in a most vulnerable situation...before his enemy Saul

He stood and let Saul with his 3,000.....know he was there....and that he had cut....

That's clearly doing the right thing.....and trusting God to protect

- **And finally**.....David's godly decision.....meant allowing God.....
to deal with this huge problem of Saul.....**in God's way** and in God's time

Last Friday.....devotional reading....turned to this book→**"The Shepherd's Covenant"**

Read this story from a Pastor.....nearly fell into the trap of an ungodly decision....and although ..did finally do what is right....still suffering the consequences---(The Shepherds p136-7)

That is a challenge.....not just for me.....but for all who walk in the way of Jesus

It is vital that our decisions are godly.....**And to** help us God has made available the armour(eph 6)

And if today you find yourself.....like David.....being push towards.....Stand firm

Or maybe you know in your heart.....that you have already gone further than is right

Commit yourself right now to dealing.....**Speak** to someone.....Admit.....Recommit

God is gracious.....and if we seek always to know his will....to walk in His way

He will lead us in the pathway of godly decisions.....

That will empower our lives....and those around us.....both love and care for.