

A Humble King

1 Samuel 24:1-7

- 1 Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Take note! David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi."
- 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.
- 3 So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)
- 4 Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.
- 5 Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.
- 6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."
- 7 So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

A number of years have transpired since when the boy David slew the giant. David has been on the run to escape from Saul for some time now.

He has a group of men who have joined themselves to him, about 300. He has some narrow escapes from Saul whose main job it seems is to destroy David.

The nation is still at war with the Philistines but Saul pursues David and thinks of him as his greatest enemy.

On the other hand, David has shown himself a great soldier and a great leader. These 300 men have volunteered to put their lives in danger for David.

As a matter of fact the more Saul tries to get rid of David the more popular among the people he becomes.

But all of this has not gone to David's head. That is what I want to look at today. How does David handle success? In a day of champions, how does the champion of the champions not allow his own self importance to poison their entire life.

I. Examples of David's humility.

A. 1 Samuel 24:1-7

1. Here David is hiding in a cave with some of his soldiers when Saul comes into the cave unaware that David is there.
2. It is dark enough in the cave that David is able to cut off the corner of Saul's robe.
3. He does this to show Saul that if he had wanted to that he could have killed him.

4. All the time David's men are trying to tell David that this is a sign from God that God has delivered his enemy into his hands.
5. But David refuses to strike Saul.
 - a. He sees Saul as the Lord's anointed, as he certainly was.
 - b. He sees Saul as God's problem not his own.
 - c. David is not interested in revenge.
 - d. He will wait upon God and allow Him to deal with Saul in His own time and His own way.
6. In 1 Sam 26 we find a similar event.
 - a. 1 Samuel 26:11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go."NKJV
 - b. In this case Saul and his army are asleep at night.
 - c. David and Abishai go down into the camp and find everyone fast asleep.
 - d. They go to the very center of the camp and take Saul's spear and jug of water to show Saul that David mean's Saul no harm else he would have killed him then and there.

B. The case of Shimei

1. Absalom, David's son has rebelled against his father and has brought the people to revolt against him.
2. David, his household and his soldiers are escaping from Jerusalem.
3. When a relative of Saul's comes to curse David and to throw stones at them.
 - a. 2 Samuel 16: 5 Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came. 6 And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. 7 Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! 8 The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!"
 - b. 2 Samuel 16: 9 Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king,

“Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!”

4. But notice the response of David.
 - a. 2 Samuel 16:11 And David said to Abishai and all his servants, "See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now may this Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him. NKJV
5. And later when David is restored to the throne when his captains want to kill Shimei.
 - a. 2 Samuel 19:22-23 22 And David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should be adversaries to me today? Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For do I not know that today I am king over Israel?"²³ Therefore the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king swore to him. NKJV

II. What made David like that?

- A. David knew who he was and that the Lord loved and cared for him.
 1. Psalm 18:1-2 (NKJV) 1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD, who spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said: I will love You, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
 2. Because of the fall and the depravity of man, we are naturally insecure.
 3. That is why we are so quick to defend ourselves and destroy those who would destroy us.
 4. A Christian who knows the love of God is not easily upset by those who would try to demean them or say evil against them.
 5. Our value is not from what others say about us or for how many million dollars we get paid for playing with a ball.
 6. God says to us, “I love you so much that I delivered my only Son for you.”

III. Pride comes from thinking you are someone.

- A. Pride was the snare that brought down the most beautiful of all God’s creatures.
 1. Ezekiel 28:11-15 (NKJV) 11 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius,

topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

IV. Humility comes from the security that is found in Jesus Christ.

- A. Jesus was the most secure and humble person who ever lived.
- B. Phil 2:5-11 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. NKJV