

Believers & Civil Responsibility

A Practical Application Of History

Lesson III

Change is Good? Right?

I Samuel 16-31 I Chronicles 10, 12 Psalms 59, 56, 34, 142, 52, 63, 54

A. The political response/norm

1. Get someone to bail you out - based on I Samuel 16-17 it looks like David had been chosen to play the harp for Saul and became his armor bearer and then had went back home when Israel had went out to war with the Philistines. Regardless we find David coming into camp in time to hear Goliath's daily rant against Israel, and even more importantly in David's heart against God. We all know the rest of the story of David slaying Goliath and becoming a great warrior in the eyes of the people. He has bailed Saul out of the fight he started with the Philistines at the beginning of his Kingship.
2. Then make them out to be the bad guy - but as always seems to be the case in politics when David becomes more popular and Saul begins losing support attitudes change. In I Samuel 18-19 we find Saul growing to both fear and hate David to the point he attempts to take his life. Psalm 59 specifically addresses David asking God to protect him from Saul and his anger.

B. Maintaining a God perspective in a bad environment - numerous times David showed that he looked at things through God's eyes and not his own.

- a. First he did not forsake his friend Jonathan because of his father I Samuel 20: 1-17
- b. David prayed to God for confidence in Psalms 56, gives thanks for God's encouragement in Psalms 34, prayed for refuge from his enemies while in the cave at Adullam in Psalms 142.

- c. David sought guidance from God in his decision making I Samuel 23: 1-12
 - d. We find that David has the opportunity to take Saul's life and resolve his problems by doing so in I Samuel 24: 1-7 but because of his respect for God's chosen refuses to do so.
 - e. We find a similar instance in I Samuel 26:1-20 where David just strolls into the camp and right up to Saul in his sleep and takes his sword and water jug. In this case we find him calling out Saul's men for their poor protection of their King. In verses 21-25 we find David telling Saul that he recognizes God's protection of him.
- C. Choose the right allies
- a. David recognizes a kindred spirit in Jonathan when he befriends David - I Samuel 18: 1-4
 - b. We find Jonathan interceding with his father on David's behalf in I Samuel 19: 1-7 and obtaining a promise from his father to quit pursuing David
 - c. After his wife Michah assists in his escape we find David and Jonathan renewing their covenant of friendship in I Samuel 20: 1-17 and they then develop an early warning plan in I Samuel 20: 18-23. They also renew their covenant in I Samuel 23: 15-18
 - d. Although they have to part in I Samuel 20: 35-42 we find that their friendship never fails. Even after Jonathan's death David's looks for a way to repay and honor that friendship. He recognizes that a friendship that will defy and reject family to do what is right for a friend is the type of friendship a leader needs to be successful.
- D. So what does it all mean to us today?
- a. Recognize that good deeds will be repaid with evil. People forget what you have done for them quickly when they need someone to be a scapegoat.
 - b. Don't resolve this by stopping good deeds, instead we need at those times to recognize all that God has done and is doing for us. His safety and protection, His blessings in the face of evil and hardship, the people that He has sent into our lives to help us. And we need

more than ever to spend time in His Word, in prayer and in developing our relationship with Him. These are the things that will carry us through the hard times just like they did for David.

- c. Choose your allies carefully and then be devoted and loyal to them. Make sure they have the same values as you, the same goals as you, and the same commitment as you. Make sure they will be honest with you regardless of the circumstances. Make sure that you communicate often and share your covenant with each other often as a reminder of what you mean to each other.
- d. And remember change is only good when it is for the right reason and with God's involvement, confirmation and blessing.