

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
DAVID ENQUIRED OF THE LORD
2 SAMUEL 5:17-25

Introduction

Tonight I want us to look at how David sought God's guidance in his daily decision making and how God blessed him in that!

Sometimes God's ways are hard for us to understand.

Isaiah 55:8-9—“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

It is so much that way that most of the time we don't even know how to ask a good question about the LORD's ways.

Rather than question the LORD's ways, the LORD wants us to simply trust Him when we don't understand.

In our passage tonight we see that David went to God twice to seek God's will in the matter of the Philistines.

(Read Scripture)

David here had already become king of Judah and Israel.

There had been 7 ½ years between his being king of Judah and becoming king of all Israel. The Philistines were the relentless enemy of God's people Israel. When they heard that David had been made king, they came out to face him. David had just recently entered into Jerusalem for the first time as king.

It says here that when David saw that the Philistines had come to the valley of Rephaim and that they were after him, he inquired of the Lord (See verse 19)

It is interesting that David didn't assume the obvious. The Philistines had come to fight and God has given David an army to fight with. It would seem self-evident that God's plan would be for him to just go out and face the enemy.

But, David didn't presume to know the LORD's thoughts. He sought the LORD's face to see if the LORD's favor is upon him.

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Sometimes people don't want to take the time to enquire of the LORD or wait on God.

Maybe they want to marry someone and they believe it's obvious that this person is God's will for them **based upon what they SEE.**
2 Corinthians 5:7—“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”

Hebrews 10:38—“Now the just shall live by faith:”

Or maybe they make a particular major purchase **without enquiring of the LORD.**

Or maybe they enter into a business relationship, a contract or an agreement with someone **based solely on their own human reasoning.**

Or they make some other major change in their lives **without enquiring of the LORD because everything seems obvious to them.**
(e.g. In Genesis 13:10-11, Lot's choice was made by what he SAW!)

Oh how we are prone to make mistakes when we rush into something without enquiring of the LORD first and waiting on Him!

A story is told of an old sailor got lost at sea, so his friends gave him a compass and urged him to use it. The next time he went out in his boat, he followed the advice and took the compass with him. But as usual he became hopelessly confused and was unable to find land. Finally he was rescued by his friends. Disgusted and impatient with him, they asked, “Why didn't you use that compass we gave you? You could have saved us a lot of trouble!” The sailor responded, “I didn't dare to! I wanted to go north, but as hard as I tried to make the needle aim in that direction, it just kep on pointing southeast.” That old sailor was so certain he knew which way was north that he stubbornly tried to force his own personal persuasion on his compass. Unable to do so, he tossed it aside as worthless and failed to benefit from the guidance it offered.” (source unknown)

It doesn't say here **HOW** David knew that the LORD was speaking to him.

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We don't know if it was through the **priest with the *Urim and Thummim*** as before. We don't know if it was maybe a **prophet** or an **audible voice** or a **pre-incarnate manifestation of the LORD Jesus Christ** (a/k/a The Angel of the LORD) or **some other sign!**

What we do know is that **David KNEW that it was the LORD!**

The LORD gave him a word to encourage him!

David was convinced that it was the LORD!

The LORD not only told him to go up against the Philistines, but He told him that He would give him the victory!

David was a man who understood that his victories came from the LORD!

Over in **2 Samuel 7:8-9**, the LORD tells David that He established him from the shepherd's field to the throne of Israel.

The LORD was behind all of David's victories! We saw how David acknowledged that back when he faced Goliath!

1 Samuel 17:45-47 45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

The LORD promises His people throughout Scripture that if they would just look to Him and trust Him, that He would give them victories!

And if we look to Him, He will give **us** victories too! But, we can't be trusting in our own abilities and talents or wisdom and expect victories! **Victories come from seeking the LORD, trusting in and depending on Him!**

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We see here that when this first victory as king of Israel was accomplished, **David gave the LORD credit for the victory.** That's important also!

We must give God the glory for what He does! The praises are as important as the requests! **It edifies the LORD for us to give Him the proper praise due to His name!** It also encourages us as the people of the LORD when we hear of a victory in answer to prayer! It shows us God is at work and encourages us to keep praying!

David didn't take credit for himself, his battle plan or even the mighty men with him. **(See vs 20)** Then, **vs 21** says that he and his men took the worthless idols of the Philistines and burned them as Moses prescribed.

Then, verse 22 says that the Philistines came again! The Philistines were relentless in their attacks in the same way that **Satan is relentless in his attacks against us!**

We may defeat him on one front of the battle by God's good grace, but we need not think that the war is over! If we rely on the LORD to defeat him on one front and then it won't be long and he'll come at us from a new front!

By now, one might think that David would assume he would gain victory again. After all God has already told him once that he would give him a victory. But, David didn't assume.

David didn't do what we are guilty of doing sometimes! He didn't presume upon the LORD's presence with him in the second battle.

(e.g. Take the matter of Joshua in the battle of Jericho in Ch. 6 versus Joshua in the battle of Ai in Ch. 7)

Many folks don't truly rely on the LORD, but rather ask Him to bless their own messes or the plans that they have made. But not David! **He didn't rush into the battle with a prayerless attitude.** David went to God again, and this time the battle plan changed. The LORD told David to go around back by the mulberry trees. He was to crouch down and wait, until he heard "*the sound of a going*" above the mulberry trees.

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I believe that sound was related to the LORD going out before him to give him the victory! What an awesome sound that must have been! Amen!?

Somebody may argue that it was just the wind rustling the leaves in the tops of the trees! You can believe that if you want to, but I don't think you'd convince David of that!

The army of the living God went out before David and his men into the battle! David's part was just to ***“Trust And Obey”!*** And that's exactly what he did!

If you're facing a particular difficulty or attack of the enemy let me encourage you to do the same thing that David did.

- 1. Don't assume that you know God's will.**
- 2. Take it to the Lord and let Him guide you.**
He can give you the victory over whatever your facing.
Give Him your problem and trust Him! He will establish you and give you what you need!
- 3. Trust Him and then obey Him!**