

The Lord Judge Between Thee and Me

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Straight Paths Bible Church

- I. During the years that Saul was king David's situation was very difficult.
 - A. David was in an impossible situation.
 - B. David's life became about nothing but trying to stay alive and fleeing from Saul and his army, which was out to kill him.
 - C. The situation got worse and worse and there was nothing David could do but run and hide or stand and fight.
 1. David always chose to run and hide.
 2. Not because he was weak or cowardly, or did not believe in fighting, but because he respected God ordained authority and order.
 3. He simply would not lift his hand against the Lord's anointed, no matter how full of the devil he became.
 - D. David had to accept the fact that Saul had many who supported him and many people thought toward him like Saul did.
 1. Even though he knew in his heart that it was all based on lies and slander, partly from his own wife, who was Saul's daughter.
 - E. David had to live with the fact that most people had no discernment about anything spiritual or right and that most thought that since Saul was appointed king by God that anything he did and said was right.
 1. David could keep his hands and his mouth off of the king and still know that the king was wrong, evil, and mad.
 - F. David had to live with the fact that many thought Saul was a godly, religious man.
 1. Saul did many things to put up a front like a God-fearing, God-seeking man, and it doesn't take much to fool most people.
 2. Saul had put away the wizards, and those with familiar spirits out of the land.

1 Samuel 28:3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

- a) While his heart and mind were engulfed with fear and madness and murderous hatred, he put up an outward show of being strict in his religion and morals.
3. He had prophesied with the prophets.

1 Samuel 19:23 And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

4. He gave the praise to the Lord in any perceived victories he had.

1 Samuel 23:7 And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.

5. Saul sought the Lord – but the Lord would not answer him.

1 Samuel 28:6 And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

6. He had a show of religion and justified his hatred for David within his religious pretences.
 7. The great difference was that David respected God-ordained authority and gave it precedence over his own feelings, his own safety, and had the character to refrain himself when he had multiple opportunities to kill Saul himself.
 8. On the other hand, Saul was only governed by his pride, his selfishness, and his hatred for anything or anyone who did not worship the same thing he did – which was himself.
- G. Saul vacillated about David; he commanded everyone (including Jonathan) that David should be killed, and then later Jonathan insisted to David that his father was not out to kill him.

1 Samuel 19:1 And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

1 Samuel 19:6 And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.

1 Samuel 19:7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.

- H. He was talked out of it easily in the beginning, but hardened himself in it as his hatred simmered.

1 Samuel 19:8-11 And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him. And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand. And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night. Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.

- I. Saul put forth opposite messages about his intentions and feelings toward David and kept everyone confused.
 - J. To a lot of people it was like Saul tried to believe good about David, but he kept finding out things that made it impossible to trust him.
 - K. Saul convinced himself and other people that David had turned on him and meant to do him harm and take the throne from him.
 1. Saul perceived David to be a threat.
 2. Not only to the throne of the kingdom, but to his reputation and the flimsy religion he professed.
 3. And also a threat to his family and his seed after him.
- II. So David had this big problem in his life – Saul; and there was nothing he could do about it but wait and run and hide and pray and trust God with it.
 - A. There was only one other option and that was to declare war on Saul and start defending himself, and kill Saul if necessary.
 1. David refused this option.
 2. Because he looked farther down the road than the immediate gratification and relief it would give him.
 3. He knew that he would have to live with the fact that he had resorted to the tactics of a wicked man like Saul in order to save himself.

- B. David knew that God had anointed him to be king of Israel and if he put forth his own hand to make it come to pass it would not be God's doing, but his own.
- C. This time in David's life was a testing time and he was being tried by God to show what he was really made of.
- D. David had not spoken against or lifted up his hand against Saul, and had not transgressed in any matter concerning him, but he was thought guilty of being a rebel with evil intentions.

1 Samuel 25:10 And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. (Nabal)

- III. God, in His Providence, will put each of us in this kind of a situation to some degree, and will give us an opportunity to avenge ourselves, vindicate ourselves, and settle the score ourselves.

1 Samuel 24:3-4 And he (Saul) came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.

1 Samuel 26:7-8 So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him. Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.

- A. Your friends will encourage you to let them have it while you have the chance; therefore you will have to stand against your close friends and loved ones, also.
- B. Your heart will be sorely tempted to put an end to all this injustice and evil that is being heaped upon you.
- C. But remember, like David did, that this is a great trial of your faith in God.
- D. David had to know and believe the Word of God about the matter – he surely had read and knew this verse:

Deuteronomy 32:35 To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Luke 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

- E. David, if he were to keep his heart right before God, had to believe that God would take care of this whole thing, and not take a sword to it, neither to use his p his tongue as a sword either.
- F. David used the opportunities he had to destroy Saul as a means of trying to reason with him and prove that he had no ill intent toward him, but it did not stop Saul's hatred and determination to destroy David.

IV. David left it to the Lord to judge between him and Saul.

A. At least twice David said those words to Saul himself:

1 Samuel 24:12 The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

1 Samuel 24:15 The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

B. David took the long look and the wise look and knew that someday this trial would be over one way or another.

1 Samuel 26:9-10 And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless? David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.

C. So David did what he always did – he waited on the Lord, and just kept doing what was right.

D. He trusted in the Lord and knew that everything would be alright in time.

E. He could only do that because he kept his heart clean and his hands off.

F. He knew he was innocent, but he also understood the truth that the wicked will always persecute the righteous in this world.

1 Samuel 24:13 As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

G. If we will prevail we must follow David's example in this matter.

H. There will be those who hate us with no valid reason, and will seek to destroy us by lies and slander, and violence.

I. Although the temptation will be strong to retaliate and defend ourselves, we better know and understand that the only way to true victory is to leave it in God's hands and continue to do right.

J. The day came when Saul did descend into battle and was killed.

K. In one day the whole situation of David's life changed and all this burden and misery and trouble was gone immediately.

L. That is the way God defends those who stand for his honor at such great cost to themselves.