

Higher Power

I Samuel 26:7-9, 2 Samuel 4:8-12, 5:3-4
August 1, 2021

Making the right decision is easier said than done.

It is often said that we should just "do the right thing." In some circumstances it's easy to know the right thing to do. But, in most cases, it's hard to know the right way forward. That's because the world we encounter is not a blank slate. The injustices we see are not isolated. They are injustices within gross injustice. Some people say that this is a new condition. Nope. It's the way the world has always been. The final stories of young David before he becomes king help us remember how hard it can be to do the right thing.

When have you been confused about the right thing to do?

READ I SAMUEL 26:7-9

7 So David and Abishai approached the troops at night and found Saul lying there, asleep in the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. Abner and the army were sleeping all around him. 8 Abishai said to David, "God has handed your enemy over to you today! Let me pin him to the ground with my spear. One stroke is all I need! I won't need a second." 9 But David said to Abishai, "Don't kill him! No one can lift a hand against the Lord's anointed and go unpunished. (guiltless).

1) The _____ forward never involves doing the _____ thing. (right way, wrong)

THINK IT OVER

When is a time that your convictions have guided your private decisions with others?

2) Seek validation from _____ who gives you the higher power to value _____. (God, everyone)

THINK IT OVER

Do you have a hard time seeing the value of the people who've hurt you in the past? Why?

READ 2 SAMUEL 4:8-12

8 They brought Ishbosheth's head to David at Hebron. "Here is the head of Ishbosheth," they told the king, "the son of Saul your enemy, who wanted you dead. Today the Lord has avenged our master the king on Saul and his descendants." 9 David answered Rechab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon from Beeroth, "As surely as the Lord lives, who has rescued me from all kinds of trouble," he told them, 10 "when someone told me Saul was dead back in Ziklag, thinking he was bringing good news, I grabbed him and killed him. That was the reward I gave him for his news! 11 What do you think I'll do when evil people kill a righteous person in his own house on his own bed? Why shouldn't I demand his blood from your hands and rid the earth of you both?" 12 So David gave the order to his servants, and they killed Rechab and Baanah, cutting off their hands and feet and hanging them up by the pool at Hebron. But they took Ishbosheth's head and buried it in the grave of Abner at Hebron.

3) Follow _____. He is a different kind of king with a different kind of leadership. (Jesus)

THINK IT OVER

What does it mean for you to say that Jesus is your king?

READ 2 SAMUEL 5:3-4

3 So all the Israelite elders came to the king at Hebron. King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was 30 years old when he became king, and he ruled for forty years. 5 He ruled over Judah for seven and a half years in Hebron.

4) Give it all to _____. God has been and always will be your only _____. (God, Higher Power)

THINK IT OVER

What experiences in your life can be opportunities to give it all to God?