

PERFECT OPPORTUNITY

Heroes, Part 4

January 30th, 2011

Looking at the circumstances you would think God had answered David's prayer

1 Samuel 24:4 (NIV) "The men said, 'This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'"

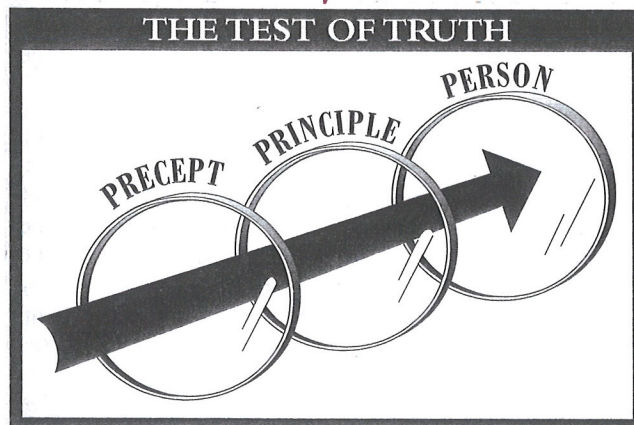
All of us have made decisions based on our ability to read circumstances

Circumstances are circumstances - not a green light or a red or yellow light - just circumstances

When you accept an objective standard for truth, you adopt a moral and ethical viewpoint that guides your choices of what is right and what is wrong

Our emotions can also cloud our thinking or give us more passion than the situation justifies

David was somehow able to detach himself from his emotions and the circumstances and weigh his options against three things: the precepts of God (the law/commands), the principles of God, and the person of God



Behind each precept (command or law of God) is a principle which helps explain the "why" behind a command

Psalms 51:3-4 (NIV) "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak & justified when You judge."

The ultimate purpose of God in every precept is to bring people to the knowledge of Himself

Exodus 33:13 (NIV) "[Moses said to God] If I have found favor in Your eyes, teach me Your ways so I may know You..."

By understanding & making moral choices based on God's precept (law), principle, and person we can also see how God protects & provides

1 Samuel 24:4-6 (NIV) "Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.'"

You don't murder the king, and you don't replace what God has put in place

1 Samuel 24:7-10,12 (NIV) "With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way. Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, 'My lord the king!' When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He said to Saul, 'Why do you listen when men say, "David is bent on harming you"? This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, "I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the Lord's anointed." May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.'"

You must think about, what story do you want told?

1 Samuel 24:17 "[Saul said to David] 'You are more righteous than I,' he said. 'You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly.'"

That day David became a hero to Saul's men and eventually to his nation as this story spread

God's will, will be done, but He will do so according to His law, His principles, and His wisdom

That's why it is so important we fill our minds with Scripture

We must not rely only our ability to interpret circumstances and respond to the emotion of the moment

All of us have done the right thing in the wrong way and made situations more complicated

Point is not to ignore circumstances or people because God often brings wisdom to us through the people around us

Point is to do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time and to weigh our options against God's law, God's principles, and God's wisdom

In the days that followed David surely thought, I'm so glad I didn't approach and attempt to do the right thing in the wrong way

Each of us in our realm of life has the opportunity to be a hero

My Next Step Today Is...

- God, give me the clarity to do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time
- God, help me to weigh my options against Your precepts, principles, and wisdom – not just my circumstances and the emotions of the moment – to do the right thing in Your eyes
- I will memorize Psalm 51:3-4