

“First Decision”

It is in the critical moments of our lives that the first decision or immediate action we take can make us or break us. We all face times when our backs are up against the wall as a result of an untimely occurrence. Whether it is an unexpected or tragic death in the family, loss of a job or business, sickness, you find out that your spouse has been unfaithful, or an addiction or stronghold has found its way back into your life. It could even be such as a friend of mine recently experienced where an unexpected bill of huge proportions comes in the mail with a “must pay immediately” notice stamped on it. Any of these events (and I’m sure that you probably have your own that you can add to this list) can, in an instant, throw you for a serious loop and into panic mode. They certainly are, for the most part, unwanted and unwarranted events. Nevertheless, they do happen to all of us in some way and at some time. No one is immune and our attempts to explain or comprehend them are often frustrating and futile. So then the question truly is: what do you do when they surface? What immediate decisions do you make? What thought processes begin to develop? These questions are important because the very next decision that you make when these unfortunate and untimely episodes occur can make you or break you. They can begin for you your deliverance or your destruction. Such an event occurred in the life David and subsequently, Samuel. They both had immediate decisions to make that had an important impact.

In 1 Samuel 19: 11-24, we see that David has to run for his life when he finds out that King Saul is bent on killing him. Now we can stop here and agree that for David this certainly was an unwarranted, unwanted, and untimely event. Saul wanted him dead. Did David have a legitimate reason to panic? Would you say that this was a critical moment in his life? The answer is yes. So what was his immediate decision? He went to Ramah to see the prophet Samuel because he knew that Samuel was a holy man of God. David knew that he needed to seek someone with wisdom who could provide protection, direction, refuge and an understanding of the situation. David’s immediate decision was a wise one because he could have gone somewhere else and to someone else but he chose to go to someone anointed who knew God. His decision proved right because Samuel himself had to make an immediate decision once he became aware of the seriousness of the situation. What did Samuel do? He immediately took David to Naioth (habitations or dwellings in a certain section of Ramah where a company of prophets resided) because he knew that the power of the Spirit of God would be mighty in that place, especially among the prophets who were prophesying (Holy Spirit inspired enthusiastic praising of God). Samuel knew that no matter whom Saul would send (troops) or what he would try to do to harm David that, in that place filled with the power of the Spirit of God, they would be safe. As it turns out, Samuel’s critical decision, in that time of crisis, was the right one because all of Saul’s attempts to capture David (even his own futile attempt) were no match for the overwhelming power of the Spirit of God. In fact, “tough guy” Saul was so overtaken by the Spirit of God that he “stripped off his robes and also prophesied...all day and night”. (vs.24) Both David and Samuel made wise decisions in the heat of the moment. They decided to seek after the Power of God. They both recognized that the only decision to make was wisest and that was to find where God is and where His people are and then stay close.

What a valuable lesson we can learn from these two Biblical giants! In those inevitable times when we are faced with the unexpected “uglies” of life, the immediate action or decisions that we make will bring us to deliverance or destruction. In whatever fashion the action is taken or the decision is made the key is to seek after the One who can meet us at that moment and provide for us the evidence, in due time, that we did make a good first decision.

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