

Serve God's Purpose

Part 5

“For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation.” (Acts 13:36a NIV)
“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God.”
(Acts 13:36a KJV)

Let us continue to learn more from the life of King David how to serve God’s purpose and how to do His will while we are still living on earth and waiting upon the Lord to come to take us to heaven.

6- David did not revenge from the authority that had harmed him: One of the difficult task is how to deal with those who are superior to you in the Lord: if they are doing God’s will then you will enjoy the grace of God and the direction of the Lord under their spiritual care. But if they are disobedient and living in compromises then the task it needs more perseverance and patience to wait upon God till He deliver us from them and fulfill to us what He had promised us.

David was driven away by King Saul away from the kingdom because Saul with his jealousy of David he was trying his best to hunt David and kill him. Saul focus all his concerned not on what the Lord wanted him to do but on how to finish the life of David.

The point that we are coming to learn is how David handled those crises and responded to the threats. David did not focus on Saul and his wrong doing against him. King Saul tried many times to kill David and to finish his life but David did not focus to revenge or to retaliate. He only managed to escape from Saul and his trials to kill him. But he continued to do God’s will and worked hard for God. He led many of the Lord’s campaign against the Philistines and the rest of the enemies of God.

There were two opportunities that David was in his hand to finish Saul’s life but he refuses to do that, as we can read here: ***“¹ After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the Desert of En Gedi. ”² So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. ³ He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. ⁴ The men said, “This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said^[a] to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. ⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. ⁶ 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.”⁷ With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave***

and went his way. ⁸ 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. ⁹ He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you?’ ¹⁰ 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.’ ¹¹ See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. ¹² 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. ¹³ As the old saying goes, ‘From evildoers come evil deeds, ’ so my hand will not touch you. ¹⁴ “Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? ¹⁵ May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.” ¹⁶ When David finished saying this, Saul asked, “Is that your voice, David my son?” And he wept aloud. ¹⁷ “You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. ¹⁸ You have just now told me of the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. ¹⁹ When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today. ²⁰ I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. ²¹ Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father’s family. ²² So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.” (1Samuel 24:1-22)

In another occasion David also spared Saul’s life as we can read here: ***“¹ The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon? ” ² So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search there for David. ³ Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the desert. When he saw that Saul had followed him there, ⁴ he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived. ⁵ Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him. ⁶ David then asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab’s brother, “Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?” “I’ll go with you,” said Abishai. ⁷ So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the***

ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him. ⁸ Abishai said to David, “Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won’t strike him twice.” ⁹ But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless? ¹⁰ As surely as the LORD lives,” he said, “the LORD himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. ¹¹ But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let’s go.” ¹² So David took the spear and water jug near Saul’s head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep. ¹³ Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them. ¹⁴ He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, “Aren’t you going to answer me, Abner?” Abner replied, “Who are you who calls to the king?” ¹⁵ David said, “You’re a man, aren’t you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn’t you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king. ¹⁶ What you have done is not good. As surely as the LORD lives, you and your men deserve to die, because you did not guard your master, the LORD’s anointed. Look around you. Where are the king’s spear and water jug that were near his head?” ¹⁷ Saul recognized David’s voice and said, “Is that your voice, David my son?” David replied, “Yes it is, my lord the king.” ¹⁸ And he added, “Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of? ¹⁹ Now let my lord the king listen to his servant’s words. If the LORD has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, men have done it, may they be cursed before the LORD! They have now driven me from my share in the LORD’s inheritance and have said, ‘Go, serve other gods.’ ²⁰ Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the LORD. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea—as one hunts a partridge in the mountains. ” ²¹ Then Saul said, “I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have erred greatly.” ²² “Here is the king’s spear,” David answered. “Let one of your young men come over and get it. ²³ The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness. The LORD delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed. ²⁴ As surely as I valued your life today, so may the LORD value my life and deliver me from all trouble.” ²⁵ Then Saul said to David, “May you be blessed, my son David; you will do great things and surely triumph.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.” (1Samuel 26:1-25) David was very aware that even King Saul is doing wrong, he is still God’s anointed king and he should not be the one to strike him or harm him but God Himself should do that at the right time. That reflect the fear of the Lord in the life of David and how he was patient waiting upon God to do what he had promised him. David was waiting upon God to reward him and bring to him all what He had ordained for him.

My Dear and Beloved: The same with you, in what you are now passing through you can apply the following points to serve God’s purpose:

1- Wait upon God: ⁷ *Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”* (James 5:7-8) God put you in certain times with hard people and he wants you to show patient waiting upon Him till he delivers you. Never focus on your enemy or their wrong doing against you, but continue to work hard and be faithful until God fully delivers you.

2- Don’t be envious when evil men succeeded in their own evil ways. “Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong.” (Psalm 37:1) When you are put in hard situations, you should not escape the situations by doing evil. You have the right to protect yourself and you have too. But never use wrong or evil ways in dealing with conflict. Keep your integrity in following God’s principles.

3- Don’t revenge or retaliate: ¹⁷ *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”* (Romans 12:17-21) Did what David did with Saul his enemy; continue to do what is right, avoid harming them, but give room to God to deal with them.

4- Pray for your enemies: ²⁸ *bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”* (Luke 6:28) Prayer is so powerful and effective in dealing with those who ill-treat you.

5- Be humble waiting upon God to lift you up: ⁶ *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”* (1Peter:6-7) God is the one only who can save you from your troubles and who is able to lift you up and reward you on his perfect time as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: “Father God in heaven, I come before you in Jesus name who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that reminded me of your ways and what you want to do and to be. Lord I humble myself in your hands, accepting your will and willing to follow your ways. Lord gives me self-control and patient to wait upon you to deal with my enemies and to lift me up, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.