

Taking the Right Decision.

“1 But David thought to himself, “One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand.” 2 So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maok king of Gath. 3 David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal. 4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him. 5 Then David said to Achish, “If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?” 6 So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since. 7 David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months. 8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.) 9 Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish. 10 When Achish asked, “Where did you go raiding today?” David would say, “Against the Negev of Judah” or “Against the Negev of Jerahmeel” or “Against the Negev of the Kenites.” 11 He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, “They might inform on us and say, ‘This is what David did.’ ” And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory. 12 Achish trusted David and said to himself, “He has become so obnoxious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant for life.” (1Samuel 27:1-12)

David was anointed as king over Israel, but he was followed and threatened by Saul, the previous anointed king, to destroy his life. David with that pressure that he was facing and the threat of being destroyed every day he thought to himself *to escape to the land of the Philistines*. The solution that he resolved to take seems logical and reasonable and considerate and will not be opposed but instead favoured and supported by certain points:-

1- If you are under threat the first think you need to do is to protect yourself and move away from the source of the threat. David was followed by Saul who was moving with his whole forces to do that. Therefore David who would not afford to face him and fight with him resolved to move away from him and escaped to the land of the Philistines. David concluded it in this manner: *“Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand.”* And truly in the way he thought it worked, *“4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.”*

2- *“2 So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maok king of Gath.”* David received settlement there; not only he but his men as well with their families, *“3 David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal.”*

3- They received the favour of the king there who gave them a city and separate place to live, *“5 Then David said to Achish, “If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the*

royal city with you?” 6 So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since. 7 David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months.”

4- His ministry continued and with much blessings coming to David and his men every day, *“7 David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months. 8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.) 9 Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish.”*

Now at this point with all these confirmations it seems that what David thought and decide was correct and had come from God. But let us continue to read and meditate further:

5- David started to tell lies and started to teach his men to tell lies: *“10 When Achish asked, “Where did you go raiding today?” David would say, “Against the Negev of Judah” or “Against the Negev of Jerahmeel” or “Against the Negev of the Kenites. 11 He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, “They might inform on us and say, ‘This is what David did.’ ” And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory.”* He put himself in a situation that he needs to tell lies in each and every day in order to protect himself.

6- King Achish decided to enslave David for life, *“12 Achish trusted David and said to himself, “He has become so obnoxious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant for life.”* He even said, *“that he will be my servant for life.”*

7- Let us read, *“1 In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, “You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army.” 2 David said, “Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do.” Achish replied, “Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life.” (1Samuel 28:1-2)* Now David and his men were put in the situation that they were called to stand with the Philistines to fight against Israel and the army of Israel. Initially the Israelites they asked God to give them King so that he will lead them and fight their battles against their enemies, and of the fiercest enemy that they were facing were the Philistines. Now David was anointed after Saul in order to fight Israel's battles against their enemies of whom most commonly the Philistines. Now David with the decision that he made to protect himself from the hands of Saul found himself in a position that he is serving Devil and was against God and against His calling and against what God asked him to do of ministry.

Certain decision you take in your life it seems so logical and so realistic, and it will bring even good outcome at the beginning, but later on lies of devil and destruction will come into your life. The good decision that you had taken was not a good decision because it was not of God and you did not enquire of God about it and that what David did and the mistake that he felt in. He relied on his own thoughts and understanding. David he always used to enquire of God before any decision he is taking. He goes to the priest and asks him to inquire of God for him. But in this decision he failed to ask God's will and he did not go to the priest to inquire of him by the Ephod. Many of you take decision without proper inquiring from God and take the approval of the church that God had placed you in. Many of you go with your own plan and

arrangement without coming back to God and to us as church for inquiring and God's approval. That is why so much mishaps and troubles and heartaches.

In addition to that further things had happened to David because of his wrong decision and because he failed to repent and correct himself. God had mercy on him, but God also disciplined him and made him pay the consequences of this shortcoming.

8- God had mercy on David; he did not allow him to go with the Philistines to fight Israel. If David would do that, he will lose his ministry and the post of being a king over Israel. Let us read what had happened, ***“1 The Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, and Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel. 2 As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish. 3 The commanders of the Philistines asked, ‘What about these Hebrews?’ Achish replied, ‘Is this not David, who was an officer of Saul king of Israel? He has already been with me for over a year, and from the day he left Saul until now, I have found no fault in him.’ 4 But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and said, ‘Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master’s favor than by taking the heads of our own men? 5 Isn’t this the David they sang about in their dances: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands?’ 6 So Achish called David and said to him, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, you have been reliable, and I would be pleased to have you serve with me in the army. From the day you came to me until today, I have found no fault in you, but the rulers don’t approve of you. 7 Now turn back and go in peace; do nothing to displease the Philistine rulers.’ 8 ‘But what have I done?’ asked David. ‘What have you found against your servant from the day I came to you until now? Why can’t I go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?’ 9 Achish answered, ‘I know that you have been as pleasing in my eyes as an angel of God; nevertheless, the Philistine commanders have said, ‘He must not go up with us into battle.’ 10 Now get up early, along with your master’s servants who have come with you, and leave in the morning as soon as it is light.” 11 So David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel.”*** (1Samuel 29:1-11) God had mercy on David and save him this problem that would disqualify him to be a king. God may use people, non believer or even his church to stop you from doing wrong. Do not consider that a hindrance but it is God's mercy to save you from big troubles.

9- God disciplined David and made him pay the consequences of his sin. Let us read ***1 Samuel 30:1-6, “1 David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, 2 and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way. 3 When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. 4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. 5 David’s two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.”*** See what had happen to him due to his own decision. While he was in the territory of Israel he was threatened and followed by Saul, but nothing wrong had happened to him because he was

under God's protection. But, when he stepped out without God's approval and without God's direction he was liable to be destroyed.

10- When all this had happen to him, this time he humbled down and repented. This time he humbled himself before God and before God's authority, the priest, and asked the priest to inquire to God for him, ***“7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, ‘Bring me the ephod.’ Abiathar brought it to him, 8 and David inquired of the LORD, ‘Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?’ ‘Pursue them,’ he answered. ‘You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue.’*** (1Samuel 30:7-8) As he humbled down, God helped him and finally he enabled him to restore what he lost and got more plunder that he used other people in Israel, as we can read here: ***“9 David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Valley, where some stayed behind. 10 Two hundred of them were too exhausted to cross the valley, but David and the other four hundred continued the pursuit. 11 They found an Egyptian in a field and brought him to David. They gave him water to drink and food to eat— 12 part of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. He ate and was revived, for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights. 13 David asked him, ‘Who do you belong to? Where do you come from?’ He said, ‘I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I became ill three days ago. 14 We raided the Negev of the Kerethites, some territory belonging to Judah and the Negev of Caleb. And we burned Ziklag.” 15 David asked him, ‘Can you lead me down to this raiding party?’ He answered, ‘Swear to me before God that you will not kill me or hand me over to my master, and I will take you down to them.” 16 He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and reveling because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah. 17 David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled. 18 David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. 19 Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back. 20 He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, ‘This is David’s plunder.’ 21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Valley. They came out to meet David and the men with him. As David and his men approached, he asked them how they were. 22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David’s followers said, ‘Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go.’ 23 David replied, ‘No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us. 24 Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike.’ 25 David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this. 26 When David reached Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends, saying, ‘Here is a gift for you from the plunder of the LORD’s enemies.’ 27 David sent it to those who were in Bethel, Ramoth Negev and Jattir; 28 to those in Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa 29 and Rakal; to those in the towns of the Jerahmeelites and the Kenites; 30 to those in Hormah, Bor Ashan, Athak 31 and Hebron; and to those in all the other places where he and his men had roamed.”*** (1Samuel 30:9-31)

How about you now? Do you have plan to repent and come back to God and to His church and open your life to be counseled and to be direct by God through His church. Check yourself now and in which point that we discussed you are? Do not wait to reach point number 8. Repent before that so God can restore you, and you do not need to fall into further troubles and calamities. God in His mercy had sent this word of Him to you to bring you back to him.

10- After that experience David learned and applied the right way, ***“1 In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. “Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?” he asked. The LORD said, “Go up.” David asked, “Where shall I go?” “To Hebron,” the LORD answered. 2 So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 3 David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns.” (2Samuel 2:1-3)*** Time for you now to humble down before God and his church and learn to lead your life in the fear of the Lord.

11- When David learned to fear God, he was rewarded and anointed king over the house of Judah, ***“4 Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah.” (2Samuel 2:4)*** David when he inquired of God, the Lord directed him to go and settle in Hebron and there He sent the elders of Judah to anoint him as King. It is very clear to me that if David had just waited upon God and did not go to the territory of the Philistines the Lord himself would remove Saul and put him in his stead as HE ultimately did. The same for you today if you had listened to God, then there will be no much hassles or troubles. But as you repented then restoration is on the way.

My Dear and Beloved: Please don't do your own and make your work double. Do not say that I do not understand your situation and what you are passing through. The solution is still the same, you need to come back to God and to his church and repent and acknowledge the futility of your ways, so we can together hear God's voice and direct you to do God's will, and recover your losses, as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word to me. I repent of my sins that I did not inquiring of you and I did not acknowledge the church that you had placed me in as an aid to me to help me to take the right decision in my life. Lord I repent, I humble down before you and before your church. Lord leads me to recover what I lost, to be restored and to be promoted to where you had ordained for me to be. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

Jesus christ



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