

## The Rule of a Worshipper, the Rebuke of a King

### Introduction

#### **Psalm 139**

***You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.***

I wish to speak to you this morning as a worshipper and worship leader. Each person in this room carries a responsibility towards someone else in life. Many of us have families who we lead; some have great influence over friends, some over work colleagues, but we all share the responsibility of our own conduct. How we choose to be led will determine what we allow into our hearts and that will ultimately dictate our ability to govern ourselves and those we influence.

Both David and Saul came from lowly families in the smallest tribes of Israel and both were chosen by God through Samuel. But it is how they chose to be with their God which defined their reign as Kings.

#### **1 Samuel 14**

***Now the Israelites were in distress that day, because Saul had bound the people under an oath, saying, "Cursed be anyone who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged myself on my enemies!" So none of the troops tasted food.***

- Saul was determined to establish HIS throne and reign by destroying the Philistines, even though the battle had been won.
- He created his own agenda and left his responsibility as King in order to fulfil his ambition.

Look at the consequence:

***But Jonathan had not heard that his father had bound the people with the oath, so he reached out the end of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it into the honeycomb. He raised his hand to his mouth, and his eyes brightened. Then one of the soldiers told him, "Your father bound the army under a strict oath, saying, 'Cursed be anyone who eats food today!' That is why the men are faint." Jonathan said, "My father has made trouble for the country."***

- Saul's actions had made his men weak and afraid.
- He caused those closest to him to be put in danger. He endangered his own legacy but putting his own son at risk needlessly.
- He caused those closest to him to doubt him. People are only now demonstrating in Egypt and Libya about the rulers after 30 or more years. They saw it but did nothing until the damage was done.

***They pounced on the plunder and, taking sheep, cattle and calves, they butchered them on the ground and ate them, together with the blood. Then someone said to Saul, "Look, the men are sinning against the LORD by eating meat that has blood in it."***

- Saul caused his men to sin because they were so desperate for food. He was responsible for them.

***Saul said, "Let us go down and pursue the Philistines by night and plunder them till dawn, and let us not leave one of them alive." "Do whatever seems best to you," they replied. But the priest said, "Let us inquire of God here." So Saul asked God, "Shall I go down and pursue the Philistines? Will you give them into Israel's hand?" But God did not answer him that day.***

- Only when prompted by a priest did Saul enquire of the Lord but he received no response....why?
- Even after seeing the exhaustion in his men, the doubts of his son, the sin of his troops, his heart was still hardened to any guidance from God, so when he enquired no response was forthcoming. God cannot guide you on your own agenda because our hearts are not set on Him but on our own desire which do not fulfil His will for our

lives. **We are therefore unable to accurately lead those closest to us and we end up no better off at the end.**

***Then Saul stopped pursuing the Philistines, and they withdrew to their own land.***

All the days of Saul's life there was bitter war with the Philistines.

Saul was rejected by God as king soon after this not because God did not love Saul but because he was unable to work through him. Due to this the nation of Israel, God's people, were in danger of following Saul's destructive path which God could not allow, that is why he raised up someone "after his own heart".

With David we see an event which would transform him and would be the making of his reign as king.

### **1 Samuel 30**

***When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 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.***

- David had everything taken from him and all his men. He could get no lower and his men wanted to kill him, such was their grief.
- But even in that place, where doubts and all manner of emotions ran through his mind, David drew on the strength of the Father.

***Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, 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."***

- David took the Ephod which was worn by the priests and enquired of the Lord before doing anything else.
- A priest was one whom God worked through, but David did not need him as Saul did, as he understood how to access the throne room himself.

- He presumed nothing, but was totally reliant on the guidance of God and therefore God responded by giving hope “you WILL succeed in the RESCUE”

***David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Valley, where some stayed behind. Two hundred of them were too exhausted to cross the valley, but David and the other four hundred continued the pursuit.***

- David’s heart was towards his men as he recognised his responsibility to them, so allowed those too weak to stay, unlike Saul who forced them to fight, no matter what their state.
- He had no less confidence despite losing a third of his army.

***David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back. He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, “This is David’s plunder.”***

- God’s work came true and not only did David recover all of their possessions, but their plunder was even greater than before.
- God will honour you before the people when He sees obedience.

David knew that had it not been for God he would have lost everything and he never forgot it. At the end of this David had the full support over all his men.

From this point on David took a broken kingdom and made it whole by keeping his heart guarded, by keeping his attitude of Worship, no matter how powerful he was.

## **2 Samuel 6**

***Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.***

***When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, “How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!”***

***David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this,***

***and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honour."***

- David was seen in honour by those who saw him express his adoration for his and Israel's God.
- David was as passionate about showing his love for God as king, as he was when not king and this prompted God to make His promise to David.

His response was typical of his heart.

***"And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, 'The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!' And the house of your servant David will be established in your sight.***

### **Conclusion**

When men are consumed by their own minds, they block God from guiding them. Their hearts are hardened and are unable to be guarded by God to future dangers or correction as pride and defiance gets in the way.

We lose the ability to govern those in our care and lead them down a path that will lead only to destruction.

**It is the heart of a worshipper that the Father is looking for in this time. In a time when the nations of the world are looking for something other than the mind of men. Only those who can access the throne-room in their secret place and not rely solely on the promptings of the Pastor, will be able to be guided in their steps, have their hearts guarded from wrong patterns and be given stature by God to govern their surroundings and those within their sphere of influence.**

### **Pslam 131**

***My heart is not proud, LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content. Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore.***

**LET THE WORSHIPPERS ARISE!!!**

