

THE REST OF THE STORY...

Every day in America 22 million people “stand by” for Paul Harvey. His unique blend of *news and views* have made him one of the most listened to personalities in radio history. And he’s best known for his segment “*the rest of the story*”.

Each day Harvey recounts a set of circumstances. Then after a station break he returns to tell “*the rest of the story*”... it’s usually a conclusion with a strange twist. Paul Harvey’s true stories condition us to expect the unexpected.

2 Samuel begins with its own version of “*the rest of the story*”... 1 Samuel 31 ends with us thinking we’ve gotten the full scoop on the death of Israel’s King Saul. On Mount Gilboa, in the heat of battle, he was hit with an arrow. Saul knew if he was captured alive by his enemies cruel and inhumane treatment awaited him so he asked his armor bearer to thrust him through with his sword. When the man refused, Saul fell on his own sword – an apparent suicide.

2 Samuel 1 tells us nothing that contradicts the account of Saul’s demise in the last chapter of 1 Samuel, but it does provide us with “*the rest of the story*”...

David is still in Ziklag, his Philistine refuge, when news arrives that Saul is dead. A man shows up. He’s come straight from the frontlines.

His clothes are torn, and there’s dirt in his hair – both were signs of severe grief and agony. David knew a calamity had occurred.

Which reminds me of a story about a Greek professor at the seminary who did business with a Greek tailor. The two men shared a love for Greek philosophy. They were always reading and discussing the Greek classics. One day the professor tore his suit, and took it to the tailor. The tailor looked at the tear and said, “Euripedes?” The professor said, “Yes! Eumenides?”

The man goes on to tell David that the Philistines have routed Israel, and Saul and Jonathan are dead. David asks him how does he know?

When you piece this man’s account together with 1 Samuel 31 here’s what must’ve happened – Saul fell on his sword, but it didn’t immediately kill him. He’s leaning on his spear - a sword sticking through his midsection. Saul has a piercing stomach ache, and the Amalekite knows a barrel of Pepto Bismol won’t help. Besides, Saul is pleading for him to finish the job. Saul would rather die than spend the little life he has left being tortured by the Philistines. The Amalekite thinks it’s the merciful thing to do so he strikes down the King of Israel.

In verse 11 David tears his own clothes.

This is not the reaction you would’ve expected from David. You’d think he would be rejoicing that his enemy is dead.

Look at all this meant to David... He could finally go home. The throne God had appointed him to occupy was not vacant for him to assume. His life was no longer in constant peril. But rather than jump for joy, David rips his clothes and mourns. He’s an important example for us... *David takes no joy in another man’s sorrow.*

And neither should we. *Never kick a man when he’s down...* or even dead. You never know when you might end up in the very same circumstances.

I’m sure much of David’s mourning was over the loss of his buddy, Jonathan, but he also expresses genuine sorrow over the loss of Saul. He respected Saul’s position while he was alive. Now he will respect his position after he’s dead.

David was an internally-motivated person. He and Saul were the antithesis to each other. Saul’s inner disposition was tied to his outer circumstances, and the opinions of others. David lived his life, and wired his emotions, to the will of God.

Even though Saul’s death would benefit him personally, David wasn’t thinking selfishly. He saw defeated soldiers, and the cadaver of a God-anointed king hanging from a Philistine wall. It all brought shame on the name of God. David mourned because he cared more for God’s glory than his own welfare.

For at least a decade, David has been on the run from Saul. On two occasions it was within his power to kill his enemy, but Saul had been chosen by the Lord, and David had honored God’s anointed. Now, he doesn’t understand why this Amalekite didn’t have the same attitude. What right did he have to kill Saul?

If David lets this man live it’ll be seen as his stamp of approval on Saul’s murder. His critics may even accuse him of plotting a coup d’etat. Any action against the king has to be punished, so he orders the Amalekite executed.

One sidenote, it’s interesting that Saul was murdered by an Amalekite. This was why God rejected Saul as king. When he defeated the Amalekites he didn’t wipe ’em out – and now it’s an Amalekite that kills him. Obedience to God not only yields short-term good - it has benefits that aren’t apparent until years later.

Bible Scan - 2 Samuel 1-10

WHEN TO GIVE UP

In chapter 2. Ishbosheth's general, Abner, and David's general, Joab, meet with their armies at the pool of Gibeon. Apparently, the encounter started out peacefully. Both armies were on simple patrol, and were pretty bored. That's why Abner suggests a little friendly competition – some entertainment for the rest of the troops....

A dozen young soldiers from both sides are sent out to do a little jousting – some fencing - some simple sparring. But the competitors get carried away. Tempers flare. Someone draws blood. In the end all 2 dozen men are dead.

Of course, this brings on a bench clearing brawl. Both armies jump into the fray, and David's men seem to be winning the battle. That's why Abner tries to escape. Asahel, Joab's brother, sees him, and chases him down. Abner had no hope of out-running him. We're told in verse 18, "Asahel was as fleet of foot as a wild gazelle." He was a Hebrew "*Michael Johnson*". A world class sprinter.

But Asahel learns an important lesson. Not every battle is worth fighting. This particular skirmish wasn't fought for the sake of justice, or the glory of God. This was a brawl resulting from the inflamed egos of a bunch of bored soldiers. One of my favorite sayings goes, "A bulldog can whip a skunk, but is it worth the effort?"

Guys, it's important to learn to pick your battles. There are causes worth dying for – deserving of sacrificial effort. But other campaigns are better off abandoned.

That's what Asahel should've done – he should've backed off Abner, and dropped it. Abner was a brutal, battle-hardened soldier. Asahel was fast, but he was young and inexperienced, and no match for a cunning Abner. Instead, Asahel continued to chase him, and despite Abner's warnings kept gaining ground.

Hey, some of us have spent our entire lives chasing an Abner. We've been in hot pursuit since college – chasing that dream – relentlessly following an ambition. It's become an addiction. We live for the adrenalin that comes from the chase. But has it ever dawned on you what you'll do with your Abner once you catch him?

Abner warns Asahel twice to back off, but the fleet-footed Asahel refuses. When Abner puts on the brakes, Asahel is running too fast to stop. Abner rams the blunt end of his spear into the gut of Asahel. We're told in verse 23 he hits him so hard, the blunt end of the spear goes through his stomach and out his back.

Here's the moral of the story - it takes a lot for some guys to get the point!

Make sure what you're chasing, and running so fast to seize is what you really should be pursuing in the first place. Evaluate your motive. It's possible to get caught up in a contest – to let your ego get the best of you – to get fixated on a goal that's really not a godly goal. Back off that Abner, or you'll get the point!

Devotion Box - The Brevity of God

The door *seems* open for David to return home to the land of Israel, but first he consults the Lord. This is always a wise move. Proverbs 16:25 reminds us, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." Self-deception is always a possibility, and we need to guard against it.

This is why David prays in verse 1, "Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?" The Lord answers, "Go up." He asks to which city? The Lord says, "To Hebron."

Notice though the brevity of the Lord's commands. God charts the course of David's future in four words, "Go up... To Hebron." When the Lord speaks to you don't always expect a detailed explanation. Long, flowery speeches are not the Lord's forte. When God speaks He usually gets right to the point!

WORSHIP & WARFARE

With the death of Ishbosheth, all Israel comes to David at Hebron. In chapter 5, all the tribes acknowledge God's appointment of David, and pledge their allegiance.

And for the third time David is anointed king. Samuel anointed him while he was still a boy. Judah anointed him at the death of Saul. Now all Israel anoints him. David received a new anointing each time his sphere of influence expanded.

I believe we too, need multiple anointings of the Holy Spirit. The oil of the Spirit needs to be poured out upon us afresh each time God enlarges the scope of our witness. We need continual outpourings of the power of the Holy Spirit.

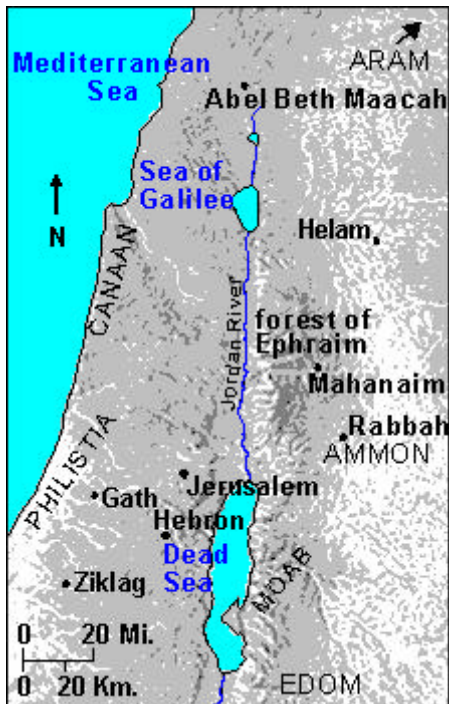
In David's song (1:21) the king mourns the loss of Saul and says, "For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil."

Ancient warriors oiled their shields, so if an arrow hit at an angled trajectory it would glance off the slick surface. Saul's shield had no oil, and the arrow struck him.

In a spiritual sense Saul's kingdom was no longer anointed with oil. The Holy Spirit had departed from him. That too, had made him vulnerable.

Guys we are far less vulnerable to our enemy's attacks when we're filled with the Holy Spirit. When our shields of faith are anointed with the oil of Spirit the fiery darts of the devil glance right off.

PLACES IN 2 SAMUEL



DAVID AND MICHAL

In 2 Samuel 6:14-15. David got caught up in the emotion of the moment. His love for God, and His desire to see God praised engulfed him. With all his might he was whirling and twirling before the Lord, as the Ark came into Jerusalem. Michal though was watching David from her window.

Michal was just like Saul, her dad. She thought only of herself and her image. Her whole approach to life was to look royal, regal, and dignified. David was a man after God's own heart. Michal and Saul were just people who played the part. And when it came to David's worship Michal didn't have a clue.

Michal was upset her hubby had acted so humble, so unkingly and undignified. She despised his uninhibitedness. When David got home, she greets him in verse 20. You've got to read it with all the sarcasm you can muster, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" In other words, "How shameful. David you're supposed to be king, not some wild man dancing around in his BBDs." David had gotten so caught up in his love for the Lord he'd become oblivious to what other people thought. But not Michal. She was fixated on maintaining the proper image. David cared about pleasing God. Michal, the politician's daughter, only cared about the CNN opinion polls.

It's sad when a person seeks to deepen their experience with God, and expand their worship of God, without the support of their spouse. Like a bird with a broken wing – trying to get airborne – it's so much easier with the help of that other wing. *Wife* be careful you don't become a *wedge* between your husband and God. *Husband* don't be a *hindrance* in your wife's attempts to draw near to God. *When a wife becomes a wedge* look what happens... Verse 23, "Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death."

Because of her disdain of David's love for God, Michal was sentenced to a lifetime of barrenness. Guys, if you don't want to experience a spiritual and emotional barrenness, then stop resisting your spouse's efforts to worship God - and become a worshipper yourself. Together, seek the Lord with all your heart.

MOTIVE AND METHOD

Both *motive and method* are important to God. I've seen people do stupid things in the name of God, and excuse it by appealing to their motive. "Yes, we may've misrepresented God, but we meant well. Our heart was in the right place..." that's great, but where was your head? I'm glad your motive is pure, but make sure your methods reflect the purity of your motive.

The Law said the Ark was to be transported on poles, carried by the priests. Instead, David puts it on an ox-drawn cart driven by two men, Ahio and Uzzah.

While in route the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the Ark. Apparently, he feared it was about to slide. *But Uzzah was the lose-ah.* We're told in verse 7, "Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God."

If you go back to 1 Samuel 5 you'll discover where David gets the idea to move the Ark on a cart. This was how the Philistines transported the Ark, but this was not the procedures found in the Law of Moses. This was the world's way.

Hey, the church always gets in trouble – a spiritual death always ensues – when we begin to mimic the world's methods and techniques. God's wisdom and good business practice at times will parallel, but we should never assume that just because a tactic works in business we should employ it in the church.

It's just as important that our methods are guided by God, as our motives.

Initially, David blamed God for the outbreak against Uzzah, but over the next few weeks his attitude shifted. He realized he was the one to blame, not God. He'd become flippant and negligent in his worship. He was not handling the things of God with the seriousness they deserved. It was irreverence.

Remember the old saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt." Over time a non-chalance can get into our worship, and cause us to treat God tritely. And when we lose our sense of reverence He will not hesitate to recapture our attention.

In 6:13, David tries again. This time though, he's researched his methods; as well as, sifted his motive. This time he has the priests bearing the Ark on poles. And every 6 paces, just to be safe, they stop and offer sacrifices to the Lord.

Bible Scan - 2 Samuel 1-10

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy -

Calvary Chapel Announcements - March 5, 2000

➔Next Bible Scan- March 12 - 2 Samuel 11-24

Monday, March 6th: *High School Drama Ministry* will meet in the Sanctuary from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Tuesday, March 7th: *Ladies Morning Bible Study* 10:00 AM *Ladies Evening Bible Study* 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 8th: *High School Youth (Acts 3)* 7:00 PM *Café: Bible Study by Pastor Randy*
Special Music by Sean McAuley 7:30 PM

Sunday, March 12th: *Worship & Bible Study* 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM. Immediately following both services we will have a *Newcomers Reception* in the fellowship hall. If you would like to find out more about CC please attend.

Baptism: We will have a baptism on the back lawn at 6:00 PM. If you would like to be baptized, contact one of the Pastors. *Middle School Youth Bible Study* 6:30 PM *Bible Scan* 6:30 PM

March 17th & 18th we will be hosting a *New Calvarys Seminar* for new and beginning Calvary Chapels. There are opportunities to serve. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bob Temps at 770-982-6882.

Devotion Box - Meet a Mephibosheth

In chapter 9 David keeps his word to Jonathan. In 1 Samuel 20 when David left Saul's court for good he promised Jonathan he would be kind to his descendants. Now that he has established his rule, he asks if any of Jonathan's descendants are still around so he can fulfill his promise. One was found... Mephibosheth.

2 Samuel 4:4 tells us a nasty drop had left him crippled in his feet. He was unable to walk.

David tells Mephibosheth in 9:7-8 that he will "show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually." In verse 11 David promises to treat Mephibosheth like his own sons.

I know another Mephibosheth... and he's you! We were lame spiritually. We too experienced a fall. When the first man, Adam, sinned we all fell from God's ideal. We sinned, and were cut off from God's blessings and power.

And like Mephibosheth we've received special treatment on account of someone else. God has poured out His blessings upon us by virtue of His Son Jesus, and our faith in Him. God even invites us to His table, and treats us like His own Son.

This is what it means to be in Christ. Mephibosheth was adopted into David's family, just as we've been adopted into the family of God.

And I love Mephibosheth's reaction, "he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?" You get the impression he felt unworthy. This is how you and I should feel in light of the glorious riches of God's grace. *Dead dog humility is the only response!*

"And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." - 2 Samuel 7:16

Bible Scan
Memory Verse

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

In 7:2 David shows the kind of concern typical for David. As usual he's thinking of the Lord, not himself. He's in his palace looking out the window at the tent which holds the Ark of God... and he's pondering... "why do I have a new palace, and the Ark sits in a tent? The Ark should have a permanent home, not me."

David desires to build a house, or temple, for the Lord. And he seeks the prophet Nathan for permission to begin construction. The Lord though speaks to Nathan, and turns the tables. No, David will not build God a house, but God will build David a house. He'll establish a dynasty of kings from the loins of David.

God predicts in verses 12-14, that David's seed, or son, will sit on his throne, and will build God a house. The immediate reference was Solomon, who built the Temple in Jerusalem. In verse 14, God also promises to discipline the house of David when needed. For the next 500 years that's exactly what God does.

Verse 16 goes beyond the scope of Solomon, "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." The Davidic dynasty ended in 586 BC when the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem, and King Zedekiah died a prisoner in Babylon. But the rabbi saw in this prophecy a future king of the lineage of David who would reign forever.

They called this eternal ruler the "Anointed One". The Hebrew translation is "Messiah", and the Greek is "Christ". Whenever we call Jesus... Christ, we're expressing our belief that He is heir to the promises God made to David. This is why the genealogies in Matthew and Luke are so important. They trace Jesus' lineage back to David, and demonstrate how He qualifies as a Davidic heir.

We've discussed several biblical covenants. These covenants are the terms by which God forms His relationship with His people. God made a covenant to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and later Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The Davidic Covenant is the culmination of all other covenants for everything else that God does and establishes will end up under the rule of our eternal King Jesus.