**EPIC INTEGRITY** 1 Samuel 24:1-22

**NEAR THE CRAGS OF THE WILD GOATS**

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 able young 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.

**DAVID’S MIGHTY MEN SUGGEST**

Eleazar- fought alone with David until his hand clung to his sword

Abishai- commander and most honored killed 300 men and the son of a giant

Benaiah- killed 2 Moabite hero’s an Egyptian giant and a lion that he chased into a pit on a snowy day

4 The men said, “This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said 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.

**CONSCIENCE-STRICKEN**

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 lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.” 7 With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

1. David doesn’t do what his band of brothers tell him to do.

2. All of your friends may say it is right, but that doesn’t make it right.

3. You need to trust your sanctified conscience and be listening to the voice of God.

**BOWS TO THE KING**

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 lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord’s anointed.

**MAY THE LORD JUDGE BETWEEN YOU AND ME**

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. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am 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.

**MAY HE VINDICATE ME BY DELIVERING ME**

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? Who 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.”

1. I think I could have come up with at least a dozen justifications for killing Saul.

2. What happens to most kings who become king by killing the king?

3. If he killed Saul he would have had to spend the rest of his life looking over his shoulder every time he went to the bathroom.

4. That’s what happens when you compromise your integrity. You have to look over your shoulder and you have to cover your tracks.

**YOU ARE MORE RIGHTEOUS THAN I**

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 about 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?

**EPIC INTEGRITY**

1. Killing Goliath took epic courage. Not killing Saul took epic integrity. I think epic integrity is far more impressive!

2. An opportunity isn’t an opportunity if you have to compromise your integrity.

3. Two wrongs will never make a right and the end will never justify the means.

**TWO KINDS OF POWER**

**Exousia-** intangible positional power, the power of choice, liberty, authority, right or privilege, the power to make judicial decisions, to manage domestic affairs, a husband's authority over his wife,

Word Usage - Total: 102 authorities 7, authority 65, charge 1, control 1, domain 2, dominion 1, jurisdiction 1, liberty 1, power 11, powers 1, right 11

**Dunamis-** tangible, explosive, miracle working power, strength, ability, inherent power, the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth, power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces or hosts

Word Usage - Total: 121 ability 4, meaning 1, mightily 1, mighty 1, miracle 2, miracles 17, miraculous powers 3, power 83, powers 6, strength 2, wealth 1

**JESUS POWER**

Matthew 26: 53 Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands (12 legions) of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? 54 But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?”

John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

1. I’m impressed with casting out demons, multiplying loaves and fishes, healing Peters Mother in Law, walking on water, calming storms. Those things are amazing acts of awesome power!

2. But what I’m more impressed with is not what Jesus had the power to do― but with what Jesus had the power to do— but chose not to do!

**MAY THE LORD REWARD YOU WELL FOR THE WAY YOU TREATED ME TODAY**

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 kill 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.

1. So, David refused to take matters into his own hands and that is integrity.

2. Your integrity is your destiny. And your destiny is your integrity.

3. We live in a culture that celebrates 15 minutes of fame instead of a lifetime of faithfulness.

4. Integrity, not talent, not ability, integrity ought to be celebrated a lot more in our ranks as the church than it is.

5. Now, keep doing the right thing and God will reward it in God’s time and in God’s way.

**EXOUSIA IS DEMONSTRATING SELF-CONTROL**

An aspect of inhibitory control, is the ability to regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behavior in the face of temptations and impulses. As an executive function, self-control is a cognitive process that is necessary for regulating one's behavior in order to achieve specific goals.

**8 BENEFITS OF INTEGRITY IN LIFE AND LEADERSHIP**

**1. IT PROTECTS US**

*May integrity and uprightness protect me because my hope is in you. Psalm 25.21*

There often seem to be those around us who don’t want us to succeed or, even worse, want to watch our downfall. Psalm 25 reminds us that God provides a shield around us when we understand the value of integrity in all areas of our lives.

**2. IT GIVES US CONFIDENCE**

*The man of integrity walks securely. Proverbs 10.9*

Do you ever doubt whether or not you’re doing the right thing? Making the right choice for those you’re seeking to lead? We can be confident! When we live and lead with integrity, we have confidence in who we’re called to be.

**3. IT HELPS US MAKE BETTER DECISIONS**

*The integrity of the upright guides them. Proverbs 11.3*

Do this. Don’t do that. Being obedient often feels like a list of do’s and don’ts but we have guidance to make the right choice when we walk with integrity. The closer we walk with Jesus, the more we grow to be like Him. Thus, growing in integrity.

**4. IT REFLECTS WELL ON THE LORD**

*I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. 1Chronicles 29.17*

When you look in the mirror, who do you see? When you make choices, what does it reflect about who you are and whose you are? Integrity displays Jesus to those around us.

**5. IT SETS YOU APART**

*Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool. Proverbs 19.1*

Riches and success are highly valued in our culture, but how fleeting they are. Integrity sets you apart in a way that cannot fade.

**6. IT CREATES TRUST IN OTHERS**

*For we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. 2 Corinthians 8.21*

Scripture tells us that we should care what other people think about us. We are to be an example of Jesus’ likeness to the world. One way we do this is through integrity and acting honorably.

**7. IT INCREASES OUR IMPACT**

*One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. Luke 16.10*

Much is expected of those who have power. When we are faithful to what God has called us to do, we are given more opportunities to impact those we lead for His Kingdom.

**8. IT EXTENDS INFLUENCE**

*The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him! Proverbs 20.7*

Integrity is contagious, especially to little ones. They watch what we do, what we say, and how we respond. When we walk in integrity, it makes an influential impact on those who surround us and come after us.