

## A Man Under Authority

1 Samuel 24

3/29/08

### Intro

Last time we were in the life of David we saw God saving David from the hand of Saul, tonight we see Saul being delivered into David's hand...

David gives us an incredible example to follow in his submission to the Lord, recognizing His authority and the authority of Saul as King of Israel.

**Tonight we learn the importance of respecting and obeying the authority that God has placed in our lives.**

### 1 Samuel 24

#### **I. Recognize God's Authority vv. 1-7**

- V. 6 David recognized God's authority in his life. His reason for not killing King Saul is "because of the Lord..."
- He first considers the fact that he needs to be obedient to what the Lord would want.

Thus, we also should...

#### A. Respect the authority of God in our lives.

- The Lord God is the authority that all humanity is called to submit to.

**Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me."**

**Matthew 22:37 “And He said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'”**

**Philippians 2:10 “So that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

- In other words, there is to be nothing that takes a higher place than the true and living God.
- We are to respect and obey Him above all else.

**App – Is there anything in your life that has taken a higher place than the Lord? Is there compromise in your life that has caused you to not keep Him as #1 in your life?**

- In order for us to be pleasing to God we first and foremost have to submit to His authority.

**App – Have you taken that first step to humble yourself before God and to place Him on the throne of your life?**

- Take note of David’s attitude toward Saul.

This is an example for us to...

**B. Respect the authorities that God places in our lives**

- God has placed in all of our lives authority.
- We all have some authority that we are called to submit to.

- David recognized Saul as one that God had placed in authority. Notice how David refers to him in v. 6, “The Lord’s Anointed.”
- What are some examples of authority in our own lives?

## 1. The Government

- All of us in this room are called to obey the laws of the US Government, whether we agree with them or not.

**1 Peter 2:13-14, 17** “Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.” (See also Romans 13:1-7)

**Illus – When I’m in Kenya I am called to obey the rules... Getting arrested in Kenya...**

**App – How about paying taxes? Getting permits? The speed limit?**

## 2. In Marriage

**Colossians 3:18-19** “Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.”

- Unfortunately the world has taken this idea of the wife submitting to her husband and made it seem like the wife is the lesser of the two.

- That has nothing to do with it. It is the pattern in which God has created marriage to function at its best.
- It's difficult when both parties are not doing their part in the marriage relationship.
- Are there any exceptions? Only those that God makes, His exception, only if your commanded to do something that is contrary to God's Word, see Acts 5:27.
- Men are to be submitted as well, though not as the wife.
- The headship of Christ, is the husbands example (See Eph. 5:25). A savior is a loving rescuer!
- Not a dictating tyrant. The husband needs to come and be that savior, Jesus is our example, sacrificial rescue.
- We still need to be subject to each other, but it is a different role. Husbands love your wives! She submits and you are to love her.
- Men are to be out front showing the family what sacrificial love is all about.
- The Lord is leading, the husband is following the leading of the Lord, and the wife following the husband. This is only possible by God's grace.

### 3. Children to Parents

**Colossians 3:20 “Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.”**

- The focus again is the Lord, not because the parents are the best in the world, but because it pleases God.
- Not just “because I said so”, but “because it honor’s the Lord when you obey.”

#### 4. Employees to Employers

**Colossians 3:22-23 “Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” (NKJV)**

- This is really gets to the heart of the matter, we do not submit because we are afraid of man, quite the contrary.
- We submit because we recognize the authority of God in our lives and want to please Him.
- It actually takes great strength to submit.
- Think of how easy it would have been for David to kill Saul, what tremendous control he showed!

#### 5. Spiritual Authority

**Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”**

- Christ is our ultimate example of how He was submitted to the will of the Father, and didn't demand His own way.

**App – Is there any rebellion in any of these areas in my life?**

**Why is this such a big deal?**

**-Rebellion to authority is as the sin of witchcraft, 1 Samuel 15:23.**

**-How I respond to authority has a direct correlation with how I respond to God's authority in my life.**

**-God will not use a rebellious man or woman to reach a rebellious world.**

**App – Now, you might be thinking, “You don't understand who I have to submit to...” Remember, God has placed that authority in your life and has allowed you to be in this position.**

**It doesn't mean that you become like them, nor do you have to agree with everything they do, but you are to respect them and obey them when it isn't contrary to the Lord.**

- There is tremendous blessing that comes when we obey the Lord in these areas. It pleases the Lord when you obey.
- When you submit to the Lord He will be your advocate and will fight your battles.

<b>II. Let the Lord Fight Your Battles vv. 8-22</b>
---

- David knew that what he was going through was unjust, but he rested in the fact that God was his defense.
- David wasn't going to "take matters into his own hands."

#### A. He is our defense

- V. 12 Notice that David trusted that God was his defense and would fight for him.
- Four times he refers to *the Lord* who would make matters right between him and Saul.
- Twice David says "My hand will not be against you."
- David knew the Lord would do two things, "plead his cause" and "deliver him."
- God is the One who is the Judge over all, see 2 Tim. 4:1
- To those who obey Him He will both defend you and deliver you.

**App – This takes faith, believing that the Lord will defend you.**

Knowing that the Lord will be your defense...

#### B. Rest in Him

- There is great peace that comes when you surrender to the Lord and His plan.

- Though you might be in a tough trial, dealing with a “Saul” in your life, God brings His peace.

**Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.**

**App – Let that peace rule in your heart.**

<b>Conclusion</b>
-------------------

**God is using the authority in our lives to mold and shape us, how we respond to that authority will determine what shape we take. Into what shape will we become? More like Christ or more like self?**

**Surrender your life to the Lord in trust, knowing that He will take care of you, He will defend you, He will deliver you, let His peace rule in your heart.**