

David's Relationships: Saul

1 Samuel 16:14-23; 18:5-15; 19:8-12; 26:2, 6-11



“[Some] people think the Bible is a book of heroes, showing you people you should copy. The Bible does have some heroes in it, but (as you’ll soon find out) most of the people in the Bible aren’t heroes at all.

They make some big mistakes (sometimes on purpose), they get afraid and run away. At times, they’re downright mean.”

– Sally Lloyd Jones

David was “a man who dwelt in the searing glance of the divine, but who sweated and stank, rutted without restraint, butchered the innocent, betrayed those most loyal to him. Who loved hugely, and was kind; who listened to brutal truth and honored the truth teller; who flayed himself for his wrongdoing; who built a nation, made music that pleased heaven and left poems in our mouths that will be spoken by people yet unborn.”

– *Geraldine Brooks*

**David honors those in authority over him
even when they act dishonorably.**

- David and Saul's Relationship
- Lessons for Us
- The True Authority
- Living it Out

David and Saul's Relationship

- From the moment they meet, Saul becomes the primary human authority figure in David's life for a long time
- Saul is a government official, boss, and older relative rolled into one for David
- Despite a good start to the relationship, Saul becomes jealous of David and tries to kill him

Lessons for Us

- David is completely obedient to Saul
- David has a strong enough sense of self to run away from Saul when necessary
- Even after leaving Saul, David continues to honor him as king
- Even though Saul is dishonorable, David respects the position God has given him and honors Saul as king as an act of worship to God

Lessons for Us

- 2 Primary Approaches to Authority in our world:
 1. Traditional - Strong emphasis on obedience and honoring, low emphasis on individual
 2. Modern - Strong emphasis on individual, low emphasis on obedience and honoring
- Both approaches leave people susceptible to harm or abuse

The True Authority

- David can relate properly to Saul because God is the ultimate authority in his life
- God is:
 - Creator, so He is our King
 - Savior, so He is our Father
 - Lord, so He is our Boss
- He is the ultimate authority in every realm of life
- He uses His authority to sacrifice Himself for our good, so we'll never need to leave him to protect ourselves

Living it Out

- There are times when submitting to authority is hard, but we're called to stay, and other times when it's right to leave
- Knowing which we're in requires us to be constantly living in relationship with God and inviting Him to guide our everyday lives