

Going Deeper with Jesus is an ongoing willingness to learn more about Him and go deeper in your trust of him...since

God is ever present and will never leave us nor forsake us...he is deeply involved in your present life... and that means your decisions in the NOW of your life have great influence in your destiny..... and that means we must handle the now well...

your past links to your present...your now...however it is your now that links to your future. your past decisions got you to today...your now decisions will predict your future... some of the circumstances you will make decisions on now are of your own making and some are not of your own making....but all your decisions are your own...and those decisions will shape your destiny...

I want to read part of an article by a special needs child's mom...she did not choose to have a special needs child, however her choices in handling this challenge are completely up to her...

Heather McCain writes....Let me tell y'all something about special needs parents. **God didn't choose us because he knew we were strong enough.** Know how I know? **Because there are plenty of special needs children who are, heartbreakingly, neglected, abused, abandoned, and worse by their parents.**

God didn't skim over the pool of parents waiting for a child and hand pick the ones who stood out the most to raise these babies who would need extra care. Do I believe my son is God sent? Of course. I just know there was nothing special about me that made me the best candidate to be his mama.

So often, we as special needs parents are told that we were chosen because we are somehow stronger than other parents. But this is what I'm here to tell you: we weren't always this way. **We aren't special needs parents because we are strong, we are strong because we are special needs parents.** And these parents I know, these freaking warrior mamas and daddies, they deserve the credit for doing what it takes day in and day out to build that strength.

These are parents who dropped their careers and learned to make it, even if it meant completely readjusting their life to new financial means. They learned terms, and medications, and even medical procedures for their kids. They power through the lifting and the bodily fluids and the sleepless nights. They have higher instances of physical and mental illness, and sky high divorce rates. They build entire businesses

to employ their child when others will not. They sit through meeting after meeting to make sure their child's needs are met. Even the most conserved, quiet ones have probably yelled at someone, somewhere who was denying their child those rights. They keep track of appointments, refills, and supplies. They have slept in hospital recliners, rode in the back of ambulances, and cried in waiting rooms after their child was rolled away for surgery.

We don't tell bodybuilders that they are such because God made them strong enough. We don't tell doctors that they are such because God gave them the knowledge.

Strength is BUILT. Knowledge is ACQUIRED. Endurance is LEARNED. how you handle now...makes for your future....

let's see how this works in scripture...John the Baptist was a big deal in his time... miraculous birth...called and filled to his mission from birth... became first recognized true prophet in 400 years...he was humble, bold and lived by mission... ..He was powerful in word...and influenced many to prepare for the coming of the Messiah

Matt 3:3 In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ²“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” ³ The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said, “He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming! Clear the road for him!’” ⁴ John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶ And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

Jesus comes to John to be Baptized and afterwards John witnesses...

Matt 3:¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened^[g] and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

- **little later both Jesus and John are baptizing people.... John who was immensely popular with the people (his Past) brings him to his now...losing popularity to Jesus ...what decision is he going to make now..circumstances are changing**

John 3:23 At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and people kept coming to him for baptism. ²⁴ (This was before John was thrown into prison.) ²⁵ A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew over ceremonial cleansing. ²⁶ So John's disciples came to him and said, "Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us."

²⁷ John replied, "No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.' ²⁹ It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom's friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. *Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. ³⁰ He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.*

- he makes a great decision...though costly to himself...
- but he has limited understanding of what less truly means...his idea of less and God's idea of less are not the same thing.... a year passes...
- Jesus had just finished giving strong instructions to his disciples ...of what following him requires... a personal love of him that is greater than love for your family, greater than persecution, greater than success, greater than trials... then he closes his instruction with the good news that there is great reward in following and serving Jesus out of Love.
- and that all service is rewarded...not just great acts but all acts of service..

Matt 10:42 And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."
then he moves on to other towns...

- **Jesus now deals with the now of his closest supporter, the prophet John....and John's now is one of confusion and disappointment...**
- **At 31 years of age..Johns ministry comes to a screeching halt...as he is imprisoned for calling out Herod on the sin of marrying his sister in law**

Matt 11: 1 When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region. ² John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his

disciples to ask Jesus, ³ “*Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?*”

- **John knew Jesus...in fact he introduced to the world when he baptized Jesus and saw the Holy Spirit descend upon him...and God the Father speak of him...he knew who he was...he even stated he must increase I must decrease..**
- **and he was quite aware of all the miracles and teaching Jesus had been doing...all signs of Jesus Messiahship...**
- **but he had expectations of what he thought the Messiah would do...and how his role as the cousin prophet would unfold...and it was not happening that way...like not at all...worse than not at all ...he was in prison and soon to be beheaded**

Matt 11: 4 Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—⁵ the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.”⁶ And he added, “God blesses those who do not fall away because of me”

- **John you have been chosen to be a prophet...and you are getting the whole of what being a prophet means... direct revelations and power from God...you have great influence even though you dress in skins and eat locusts, powerful people come out to hear you....you are a life changer... your past has led to your now...**
- **and now you also get to experience what most prophets did ...the death of a martyr...which is not what you expected...**
- **the Messiah is still the one you witnessed... you will weather the now, and I will speak blessing over you...in the midst of your trial...and you will be blessed in the future...**

⁷ *As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. “What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? ⁸ Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces. ⁹ Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. ¹⁰ John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.’¹¹ “I tell you the truth, of all who have*

ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!

- but you new testament disciple of min will do even greater things....
- **So John in prison made the decision to not fall away to keep following Jesus...how do we know? he was not released by Herod...which means he did not change his statement ...to be released...he did not say it was ok for Herod now to marry his brother's wife...**
- his decision now to honor God would change in the natural and spiritual his destiny...
- remember he is only about 32 years old
- where is the blessing?

not long after ...In chater fourteen we read of his death...

*Matt 14:10 So John was beheaded in the prison, ¹¹ and his head was brought on a tray and given to the girl, who took it to her mother. ¹² Later, John's disciples came for his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus what had happened. ¹³ As soon as Jesus heard the news, **he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone.....***

- **Jesus got into a boat had his disciples set sail for a remote place where he could grieve He grieved the loss of his cousin, friend and prophet...**

Matt14: 13.....But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. ¹⁴ Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

*¹⁶ But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them." ¹⁷ "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered. ¹⁸ "Bring them here," he said. ¹⁹ Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. ²⁰ They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. ²¹ **About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!***

- **John's death leads directly to the greatest mass miracle Jesus performed in his life on earth... to the feeding of way more than 5000 people...in a remote place...exactly like the environment John used to preach at...remote places..**
- **John would be most proud...**

And that is not all this directly leads to Jesus great miracle of walking on the water...

Matt 14:22 Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³ After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

²⁴ Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵ About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" ²⁸ Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." ²⁹ "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"³² When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

- **John's death led directly to the greatest miracle and to the disciples fully believing Jesus was the one...the Messiah the Son of God.....**
- **His going deeper caused them to be directly influenced to go Deeper....starting with Peter...and then all the disciples...**
- **John was right he must decrease...becoming less in the hands of Jesus leads to being used in greater waysand that is the blessing...how you handle your now leads to your greater impact in the future!**
- **Handle it well**
- **end**

Let me share something with you Jesus said:

NIV MT 11: 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

- **The Kingdom of Heaven moves forward it is proactive...**
- **Those willing to move forward will experience it...**
- **The goal of faith is not the elimination of Risk...but the opportunity to do great things...**
- **God directs we must be forceful...it is the opposite of passive...**

NLT Matt 11:13 For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward **to this present time.** ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come.^[e] ¹⁵ Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

¹⁶ “To what can I compare this generation? It is like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends, ¹⁷ ‘We played wedding songs, and you didn’t dance, so we played funeral songs, and you didn’t mourn.’

¹⁸ For John didn’t spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, ‘He’s possessed by a demon.’ ¹⁹ The Son of Man,^[f] on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ But wisdom is shown to be right by its results.”

God Didn't Choose Me to be A Special Needs Parent

Heather McCain

Let me tell y'all something about special needs parents. God didn't choose us because he knew we were strong enough. Know how I know? Because there are plenty of special needs children who are, heartbreakingly, neglected, abused, abandoned, and worse by their parents.

God didn't skim over the pool of parents waiting for a child and hand pick the ones who stood out the most to raise these babies who would need extra care. Do I believe my son is God sent? Of course. I just know there was nothing special about me that made me the best candidate to be his mama.

So often, we as special needs parents are told that we were chosen because we are somehow stronger than other parents. But this is what I'm here to tell you: we weren't always this way. **We aren't special needs parents because we are strong, we are strong because we are special needs parents.** And these parents I know, these freaking warrior mamas and daddies, they deserve the credit for doing what it takes day in and day out to build that strength.

These are parents who dropped their careers and learned to make it, even if it meant completely readjusting their life to new financial means. They learned terms, and medications, and even medical procedures for their kids. They power through the lifting and the bodily fluids and the sleepless nights. They have higher instances of physical and mental illness, and sky high divorce rates. They build entire businesses to employ their child when others will not. They sit through meeting after meeting to make sure their child's needs are met. Even the most conserved, quiet ones have probably yelled at someone, somewhere who was denying their child those rights. They keep track of appointments, refills, and supplies. They have slept in hospital recliners, rode in the back of ambulances, and cried in waiting rooms after their child was rolled away for surgery.

We don't tell bodybuilders that they are such because God made them strong enough. We don't tell doctors that they are such because God gave them the knowledge. **Strength is BUILT. Knowledge is ACQUIRED. Endurance is LEARNED.**

So, to my fellow special needs parents: I acknowledge everything you do for your child. I acknowledge that it has taken a lot of heartache, exhaustion, research, growth, frustration, days you felt like you wouldn't get through, nights that seemed to go on forever, and dedication to your child to build the strength you are often told you must have already had.

YOU get credit for being the parent that you are. YOU.

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²⁵ At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike." ²⁶ Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!

²⁷ "My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²⁸ Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

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The world wants your best ...God wants YOU!

You are worth so much to God that he wants to forgive you of all your wrongs so that you can be with him...always in a love relationship separated from all wrong doing against him.

By perseverance the snail Reached the Ark Hebrews 12:1

HEB 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Whatever is not motivated by love will not result in love

*JN 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**"*

- The key is holding on to his teaching....
 - Then the truth will become clear, and you will be set free from the lies you believe... (for a lie is the opposite of the truth.)
 - Think of a combination lock...there are thousands of combination which you can try to use to open the lock...but there is only one true combination.
 - And the true combination is only worthwhile if you hold on...(remember it).
 - To use it one time and forget it avails you one time usefulness.

Or as James the Lord's half brother puts it...

JAS 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.

Our identity gives rise to the way we think about ourselves...the way we think about ourselves governs our behavior. Notices that Paul does not command us to behave a certain way in order to become something were not. Rather he commands us to remember who we already are in Christ and to think and live accordingly.

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We are all marked from living in life...however the marks inflicted by God , mark us for greatness...How? because they are used to integrate the future into our present... and to link our present with our future... what that means as a mark of true greatness.. is that when I understand that my present or my now is tied into my future and my future is tied into my now....they work together...to accomplish what God Has willed....the

present is the training ground for the future...they are connected and complementary...not fragmented and isolated events...

That is one of the key ways our past is connected to our future in the present it is how God develops character in us.....we experience Déjà vu... **Some problems don't go away- they reappear at the worst possible moment. It's déjà vu all over again, and the trouble you hoped was finished starts all over. Very often in life, trouble does a double take. Sometimes it is called Déjà Moo...same old bull!**

David has been chased in the now of his life by King Saul to kill him...He is running...He has helped people and been betrayed...He has suffered rejection...and handled it well...He will face it again...

- **David writes of his emotional state in Psalm 31**

Psalm 31:9 Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.¹⁰ My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

¹¹ Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors and an object of dread to my closest friends— those who see me on the street flee from me.¹² I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.¹³ For I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side! They conspire against me and plot to take my life.

- His present is painful...and he is worn out...
- What will he choose to do??...

¹⁴ But I trust in you, LORD; I say, “You are my God.”

*¹⁵ **My times are in your hands; deliver me** from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.¹⁶ Let your face shine on your servant; **save me** in your unfailing love.*

- He makes a connection..that this is my present time...but all my times are in your hands...please deliver me and save me...for you are my God!
- David is then betrayed a second time...by the people who also live in the territory he is now hiding in...

*1 Sam 23:19 The Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hakilah, south of Jeshimon?”²⁰ Now, Your Majesty, come down whenever it pleases you to do so, and we will be responsible for **giving him into***

*your hands.*²⁶ *Saul was going along one side of the mountain, and David and his men were on the other side, hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his forces were closing in on David and his men to capture them,*

- ***we are never in the hands of anyone but God!!***
- ***David and his men were within hours of being caught...there was no way out...***
- ***the only thing that separated him from Saul was the mountain ridge which they were about to cross over...***
- ***by all natural accounts their goose was cooked...***
- ***but God...showed David a miracle...which could be interpreted as luck or circumstances...***
- ***God has a way of doing that!***

²⁷ *a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Come quickly! The Philistines are raiding the land."*

²⁸ *Then Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to meet the Philistines. That is why they call this place Sela Hammahlekoth. ²⁹ And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of En Gedi.*

- ***Sela Hammahlekoth means rock of parting...rock of refuge***
- ***what stood between him and death...was a rock...that is where David in His Psalms took the Rock to identify God....***

Psalm 18:2 *The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

And....46 The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior! 47 He is the God who avenges me, who subdues nations under me, 48 who saves me from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes; from a violent man you rescued me. 49 Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name.

He ties in his present now with his future to be...he gets it....

- ***David knew who protected Him...Just in the nick of time...by miracle..his present situation is in the light of his future...***
- ***The lesson Trust God for he is in charge!!!! His timing is not my timing!!***
- ***tis was an eye opener for him...this is a turning point for David...his present his now is tied to the future...they are not separate and distict!!***
- ***Now he gets opportunity to practice wating on God's timing!!***

1 Samuel 24:1 *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.*

- **called the crags of the wild goats ...because the terrain was so treacherous only wild goats could navigate it...you are desperate to hid in such a place...**

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.*

- **These crags and caves are located west of the Dead Sea...**
- **Saul needs to go to the bathroom...just so happens to be a cave David and some of his men are in..**
- **some of these caves are huge able to hold over 1000 people**

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.*

- **His men believed this was the opportunity God was giving David to end this life of inconvenience, take revenge on Saul and assert yourself as King...I mean come on he is in our hand...it has got to be God!**
- **David did not believe that is what God would have him do....**
- **so he cut off a piece of the kings robe....**

⁵ *Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.*

- **and before he can crawl back to his men with the piece of fabric...he is overcome by his conscience and filled with grief for doing this...Why?**
- **the Kings robe is the identifying outfit of his position...much like a soldier's uniform and stripes identify who he is...**
- **Jonathan took off his robe giving to David in 1 Sam 18 to signify...he is the heir to the throne**
- **so to cut the robe indicates he has at the minimum torn the kingdom and is in command of a portion of it...**
- **and secondly as we will see it lets Saul know ..he could have killed him...So what is the problem???**
- **why is he grief stricken about this???** because David had finally got it... he would be King by God's design...not by his maneuvering, scheming or overthrowing the one whom God allows to remain in the position....

God called him to it! God will make it happen!!

*******You know you are maturing when you stubbornly choose ‘God’s will over ‘security, over making your own opportunity, over hardship’.**

He will choose God's way and God's timing ... over his choice ...He is getting closer to being ready for the job...

You first have to become God's man or woman period...before you are God's man or woman for the Job!!

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.

- **I won't touch him..and shame on you for wanting too!**
- **God put him in God will take him out!! it is up to God!**
- **this is a lesson all God's kids have to learn...**
- **Trust the character of God... if He said he would He will...when and how he does is up to him!!**

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.’

- **God delivered you into my hands ...but I gave you back to him...your times are in His hands**
- **I respect you and have never betrayed you...nor meant you harm...**
- **Look....**

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. ¹³ As the old saying goes, ‘From evildoers come evil deeds,’ **so my hand will not touch you.**

- **I have done nothing wrong...**
- **in fact you are pursuing ...a nobody...**

- **God is our judge let him deal with us in his own hand...**

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.”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? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today.

- **you are right I cannot be your enemy...you did not kill me when you had the chance...who does that?**

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.

- Saul has a moment of clarity... recognizes and verbalizes David will indeed be King... makes him swear he won't kill off his family...common practice to kill off rivals or heirs to the throne ...then calls off the hunt..
- **David goes back to living in the crags...waiting on the timing of God...**
- **nothing changes outwardly ...but everything changes inwardly...He has peace...and is assured not by outward circumstances but inward understanding of the character of God...**
- **That was great for the moment ...but did it take long term hold of his being...the only way to find out is to test it again later...**
- a year or so later

1 Samuel 26;1 The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?”

- **Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah--These people seem to have thought it impossible for David to escape, and therefore recommended themselves to Saul, by giving him secret information...they had not learned...**
- **they had betrayed him once.. it appear strange that David should return to their neighborhood; but, perhaps he did it under the impression that Saul had become mollified.**
- **But the king had relapsed into his old enmity.**

1 Sam 26:2 So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand select Israelite troops, to search there for David. ³ Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul had followed him there, ⁴ he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived. ⁵ Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him. ⁶ David then asked Ahimelek the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?" "I'll go with you," said Abishai. ⁷ So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.

- **David had been running away...but when this déjà vu experience happened...he made a decision...**
- **BOLDLY FACE THE PROBLEM...The first principle to keep in mind when trouble takes a double take is don't run away. I don't mean you don't need to be cautious; David didn't go rushing into Saul's camp swinging his sword and yelling, "Bring it on!"**
- **But he knew he couldn't just keep running; he had to deal with this problem, using all the wisdom and courage he had.**
- **You will never get anywhere by trying to run when trouble does a double take.**

The temptation to escape is sometimes stronger the second time you face a problem, because you remember how hard it was to deal with it the first time.
- **You may still carry the scars of the last time you battled this difficulty, and the thought of going through that painful experience again may seem too much to bear.**
- **But if you've tried everything you know to avoid trouble and it still seems inevitable, then it's not time to cut and run, but to stand and fight. When trouble does a double take, you have to make up your mind to boldly face it and, with God's help, do the best you can do.**
- **There are problems you can deal with by just walking away. But often, when trouble does a double take, running away is not the answer.**
- **You have to steel up your nerve, and boldly face the problem and do what you know is right..**

⁸ *Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice."*

⁹ But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless?” ¹⁰ *As surely as the LORD lives,” he said, “the LORD himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.* ¹¹ But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let’s go.” ¹² So David took the spear and water jug near Saul’s head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep. ¹³ Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them. ¹⁴ He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, “Aren’t you going to answer me, Abner?”

Abner replied, “Who are you who calls to the king?” ¹⁵ David said, “You’re a man, aren’t you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn’t you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king. ¹⁶ What you have done is not good. As surely as the LORD lives, you and your men must die, because you did not guard your master, the LORD’s anointed. Look around you. Where are the king’s spear and water jug that were near his head?”

¹⁷ Saul recognized David’s voice and said, “Is that your voice, David my son?” David replied, “Yes it is, my lord the king.” ¹⁸ And he added, “Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of?” ¹⁹ Now let my lord the king listen to his servant’s words. If the LORD has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, people have done it, may they be cursed before the LORD! They have driven me today from my share in the LORD’s inheritance and have said, ‘Go, serve other gods.’ ²⁰ Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the LORD. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea—as one hunts a partridge in the mountains.”

²¹ Then Saul said, “I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. **Surely I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong.**” ²² “Here is the king’s spear,” David answered. “Let one of your young men come over and get it. ²³ The LORD rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. **The LORD delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed.** ²⁴ **As surely as I valued your life today, so may the LORD value my life and deliver me from all trouble.**”

- What was put into my hand..I returned to the Lord's hand...he put you in ...he will take you out...
- **You will always live to regret doing the wrong thing: you will always live to be glad you did the right thing.**
- **When trouble does a double take, if you are wise, you will do what is pleasing to God, not what pleases you.**

- **If you did the right thing the first time around, that means you need to do the right thing again. If you did the wrong thing the first time, then you have a second chance to get it right. But whatever you do, don't make the foolish mistake of choosing sin as your way out. Sin is always just only another road to more trouble.**

²⁵ Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, David my son; you will do great things and surely triumph." So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

- indeed David will not be in the presence of Saul again...there will be no more déjà vu's for David and Saul....
- David goes back to the hills...His trust is in God's timing ...trust in God's timing...
- the mark of true greatness...

David demonstrates 3 things you must do when trouble takes a double take: which are marks of true greatness...

- 1. when double takes happen ...face them quickly**
- 2. do the right thing...again..or even maybe for the first time..**
- 3. trust in God always...rely on his timing!**

end