Sermon Notes

Title | Surprised by Integrity
Series | The Ascent Was a Mess
Text | 2 Samuel 1:1-27
By | Bob Kerrey
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2 Samuel 1:1 After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. 2 And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage. 3 David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." 4 And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead." 5 Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" 6 And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear, and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him. 7 And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' 8 And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' 9 And he said to me, 'Stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.' 10 So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord." 11 Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. 13 And David said to the young man who told him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite." 14 David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" 15 Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died. 16 And David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.'" 17 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, ESV

Big Idea:

Psalm 78:72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart . . .
NASB

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Psalm 78:72 describes David as shepherding with a heart of integrity. Integrity is the state of being undivided, complete, or whole. A person of biblical integrity is one whose heart is undivided in its allegiance to God. A person of integrity speaks the whole truth without duplicity. A person of integrity seeks God's way all the way, not his own way. What are some specific ways your heart can be divided and how can you pursue integrity?

Tuesday:

Read the account of King Saul's death in 1 Samuel 31:1-6. Now read the young man's version of the story in 2 Samuel 1:10. In comparing the two accounts, what do you conclude? Was the man a witness to the events? To what extent is he telling the truth? What do you think is the motive for his version of the story? To what extent does this man have integrity? What can you learn from him?

Wednesday

The death of Saul is an advantage for David. It stops Saul from trying to murder David, and it paves the way for David to succeed Saul as the God-appointed king of Israel. Read David's response to the news that King Saul has died in 2 Samuel 1:11-12. Also read David's lament in 2 Samuel 1:17-27. How sincere is David's grief? How do you explain his grief when he stands to gain so much from Saul's death? What does this say about his integrity?

Thursday:

David had at least two previous opportunities to strike down Saul, which would have eliminated the danger to himself and expedited his ascent to the throne. Nevertheless, David steadfastly refuses to lay a hand on Saul, on the thinking that it would not be right in God's eyes for him or anyone else to murder a king of Israel whom God has chosen. Read 2 Samuel 1:13-16. Is David justified in taking such action? Why or why not? How does this relate to integrity?

Friday:

Integrity seeks God's way all the way. None of us has perfect integrity. How can you grow in integrity? What steps can you take now?

Daily Prayer:
Lord, help me to be a person of integrity. Show me the ways my heart may be divided. Make me whole. I want to seek your way all the way. Amen.

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