Devotion #303

**A Right Heart in Judgement**

**2 Samuel 16:11-12 (NASB)** *“Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, ‘Behold, my son who came out from me seeks my life; how much more now this Benjamite? Let him alone and let him curse, for the LORD has told him. Perhaps the LORD will look on my affliction and return good to me instead of his cursing this day’."*

There are times in life when we are particularly disturbed by something that has been done to us. Such as when we make a comment or act upon a thought, and we are corrected. Those times are never fun, and, unfortunately, we often respond in some retaliatory. But King David helps us see the proper response in these times.

In this passage David is on the run from his own son, Absolom. Absolom has taken over the kingdom, and David is living with his men in isolation, running for his life. Suddenly a man from the family of King Saul comes to David and begins to curse him, saying all kinds of mean and hateful things to him.

You would think David’s reaction would be one that would fall in line with any king who had reign over others, which would be to kill the worthless fellow, which is what Abishai, one of David’s right-hand men, wanted to do. Notice Abishai says, **2 Samuel 16:9 (NASB)** *"Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over now and cut off his head*." Almost to say, “Let me take care of this worthless creature now so we don’t have to hear his constant badgering.”

But David, with great humility, says our verse for today. It is an alarming response. One that only a true heart for God would respond with. Much like the Lord Jesus when He was accused falsely and put on the Roman cross, and He said, “**Luke 23:34 (NASB)***"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing*." In as much as the Lord Jesus had the right - as God - to defend Himself and call ten thousand angels to His defense, so King David had the right to defend himself. But amazingly he didn’t. Instead he surrendered himself to the Lord by saying, “For the LORD has told him.”

David understood that all things come from God - even the willingness to let Satan do His dirty work. He, God, is the Sovereign controller of all things. He has a reason for all He does and allows. David knew that. That is the response of a godly person. To know that no matter the situation in which we find ourselves, when someone comes against us, God is allowing it for some reason. Instead of defending ourselves, we are to be still and let the Lord take care of it. Not that we are to be ignorant and careless, but we are to be settled in our hearts that no matter what comes our way, God is in control and will always have the final say.

So who or what is bothering you today? Who or what is coming against you that is getting your dander up and causing you such angst? Perhaps it is the Lord allowing that person to say or do what they are doing so that we will humble ourselves and let God do in our hearts what He needs and wants to do. Maybe we shouldn’t be so quick to jump back at someone but listen carefully to their rebuke. Maybe, just maybe, there is a message from the Lord in it that will help us be the people we need to be like Jesus in **1 Peter 2:23 (NASB)** “While being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously.”. Consider Jesus’s response the next time you are reviled.