

The Story You Will Tell

Scripture Reading: *Proverbs 3:1-12*

- A. Children love to hear stories from their parents.
- B. Like our children, Solomon must have grown up hearing stories from and about his father.
- C. The stories of David's successes and failures all pointed back to the same unifying principle—a principle that Solomon himself summarized better than anyone in *Proverbs 3:5-6*.

I. The Principle Illustrated In A Story About Solomon's Father (1 Samuel 24:1-4)

- A. Saul had been chasing David like a wild animal, and had gotten a fresh lead (24:1-3).
- B. View this situation from David's perspective:
 - 1. In terms of conventional wisdom, killing Saul made sense—somebody had to go!
 - 2. Could there be even a divine element to the situation? David's men thought so (24:4).
 - 3. From the perspective of David's men, there was another reason—killing Saul would remove the possibility of their own severe punishment if David were finally caught.
- C. The emotional pressure on David to act (and quickly!) was immense.
- D. The problem? Emotions and misguided passions can cloud our ability to accurately evaluate our circumstances in order to choose the right path.
- E. Remarkably, David displayed restraint—restraint that made absolutely no sense to his men at the time, but restraint that enabled him to resist the momentum of the circumstances and choose a different course of action.

II. The Framework of David's Decision (1 Samuel 24:5-15)

- A. The _____ of God (24:6a) — ***has God already spoken on this matter?***
- B. The _____ of God (24:6) — ***what outcome am I expecting from this decision?***
- C. The _____ of God (24:8-15) — ***what story do I want to tell?***
- D. In refusing to kill Saul, David modeled a powerful truth: we won't accomplish the will of God by breaking the law of God, violating the principles of God, or ignoring the wisdom of God.