



Two Kings



Eastside Church of Christ
VBS, 2021: Lesson Four

PLAN



ACTION

Attitude
Toward the Plan

Attitude Toward the Plan

- Saul: Faithful Beginning; Quick Departure (I Samuel 13:8ff)
 - Displays human ingenuity
 - Points finger of blame at everyone but himself
 - Problem: “You have not kept the command of the Lord” (vs. 13)

PLAN
⇩
ACTION

Attitude Toward the Plan

- Hezekiah: Full Commitment to God's Plan
 - Priests and Levites take proper role
 - Worship restored
 - Passover restored
 - Priests organized

In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them. ⁴ He brought in the priests and the Levites and assembled them in the square on the east – II Chronicles 29:3-4

PLAN
⇓
ACTION

Attitude Toward the Plan

- Saul and Hezekiah: Attitudes Toward Citizenship
 - **Commands** Matter
 - Hezekiah was a servant to God and to his people
 - He respected the God behind the commands
 - **Actions** Matter
 - “Close enough” is not good enough
 - Trust is demonstrated through action

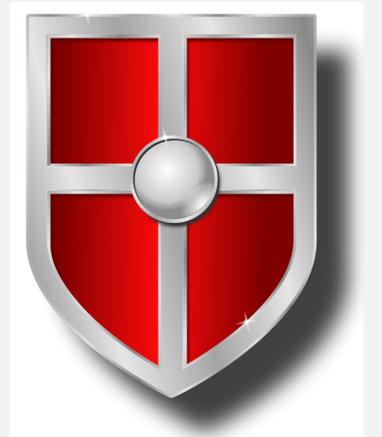
PLAN
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ACTION

Attitude
Toward protection



Attitude Toward Protection

- God Allowed Evil Spirit to Trouble Saul
 - Created paranoia as demonstrated by his spear

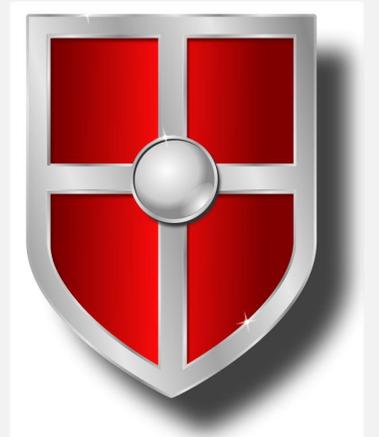


- Saul had his spear in his hand (18:10)
- Saul hurled the spear [at David] (18:11)
- Saul sat in his house with his spear in his hand (19:9)
- Saul sought to pin David to the wall with his spear (19:10)
- Saul hurled his spear [at son Jonathan] (20:33)
- Saul was sitting at Gibeah with spear in hand (22:6)
- Saul was sleeping, with spear stuck in ground near his head (26:7)



Attitude Toward Protection

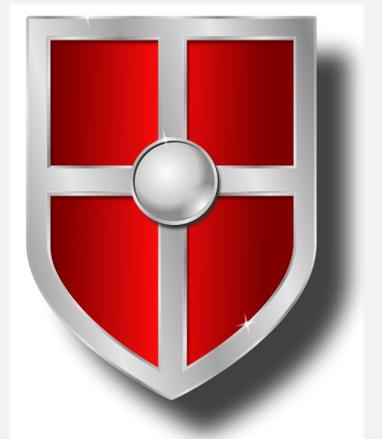
- God Allowed Evil Spirit to Trouble Saul
 - Created paranoia as demonstrated by his spear
 - I Samuel tells of two tall soldiers who foolishly depended on spear
 - Sought to kill those who could help
 - A son-in-law who killed tens of thousands of enemies
 - A son who was godly, noble, and brave



Attitude Toward Protection

- Hezekiah Placed His Trust in God
 - Did what he could (II Chronicles 32:3-6)
 - Knew where victory would be found (vv. 6-8; 20; 22-23)
- Heavenly citizenship demonstrates trust
 - What is my level of confidence in God?

Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also – Luke 12:33-34



Handling Mistakes



Handling Mistakes

- Saul's kingship began with great potential; ended in shame
 - Departure from God left king, family, nation vulnerable to enemies



Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul. The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers. Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it. And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him/So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people.

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Handling Mistakes

- Hezekiah also made his share of mistakes



So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all his enemies, and he provided for them on every side. And many brought gifts to the LORD to Jerusalem and precious things to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations from that time onward (32:22-23) **The Way Things Should Be**

In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death, and he prayed to the LORD, and he answered him and gave him a sign. But Hezekiah did not make return according to the benefit done to him, for his heart was proud. Therefore wrath came upon him and Judah and Jerusalem (24-25)

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Handling Mistakes

- Hezekiah also made his share of mistakes
 - He handled his mistakes correctly

But Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah (26)



Handling Mistakes

- Kingdom citizens can and will mess up
 - Like Saul, we can grow despondent
 - Like Saul, we can blame others and cease serving a good purpose
 - Like Hezekiah, we must acknowledge God's superiority
 - Pride is a dangerous emotion (1 John 2:16)
 - Humbling ourselves is the only choice for faithful citizens!



There is Hope
Despite
Terrible
Mistakes!

