

## Always Do the Right Thing

*Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.*

— 2 Samuel 1:11-12

We cannot take another person's actions as an excuse to not do what is right. We must be devoted to doing what is right, regardless of other people's actions.

Seeing how David had treated Saul earlier, his actions were consistent. He continuously treated him with love and respect. I do not believe for one second that he was faking it. This was a heart-driven sincere action by David (2 Samuel 1:11-12).

What would you have done if you found out that your enemy had died? Most people would throw an overnight party to celebrate the death of their enemy, but not David. David had seen the defeat of his nation, the death of his best friend Jonathan, and the death of the Lord's anointed, Saul. David did not rejoice, but he instead mourned for them all. His men also followed his leadership and mourned for the death of all the slain children of Israel, including the king and his son, Jonathan.

This is not an easy thing to do, but it is the right thing. Saul had made David a vagabond. He had pursued to kill David multiple times, but David had spared Saul's life whenever he had opportunity to kill him. Yet when his enemy, Saul, died, he mourned for him and fasted.

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Notice the order in which this is stated. It says he mourned and fasted “for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the Lord, and for the house of Israel.” This does not say he mourned for Jonathan his friend and the children of Israel. It puts Saul first, making a point of priority, and saying he was not just mourning his friend Jonathan, but also for the very man that continually sought to take his life.

But David did not stop, he went on to kill the very messenger that had “mercy-killed Saul.” Why did David think this way when it was clear that Saul was his enemy? David was a godly man. He was not pleased with the death of Saul, and he punished the man who confessed to doing so. David still did not stop there.

We do not see him ever celebrating the arrival of his kingdom as a result of the death of Saul. David had every right to do so—Saul was his adversary. But he did not. If David was out to please the people like Saul was known to do, most of the people would have sided with David. They would not have been offended if he had celebrated the death of Saul, the man that had sought day and night for his life. But again, David did not view things like the world did. He was a godly man and his view was a godly view.

An average person would have asked, “What’s wrong with David? Celebrate and rejoice; your enemy has died, and your kingdom has also arrived.” David would not buy into that thinking and would have asked, “What is wrong with you?”

*Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

— Romans 12:15

David’s actions after the death of Saul clearly set him apart as a true man of God. He mourned with those who mourned, fasted with those who fasted, and wept with all who wept.

Other people’s actions do not excuse us from doing the right thing. What is right is right regardless of what everyone else is doing. We must do the right thing following the given instructions and with a good attitude (Philippians 2:14 *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*). Success is *not* down to simply doing the right thing, but also having the right attitude.

In Uganda where I lived, I have seen people who will bribe and say it is because the system is corrupt. They say things like, I will go to jail if I did not bribe this person. Well, go to jail. You are better off being in jail having done the right and honorable thing than go home with a lack of integrity. Shockingly, believers are the very people that are participating in furthering the problem instead of bringing about a solution. The light is not shining. The salt of the earth is not having

the effect it should have. The very same people who are complaining about corruption in the government yet, they are promoting and participating in it in their private sector and the excuse they give is; the system is corrupt. What a sorry attitude! What a lame excuse!

Just because everyone around you is unfaithful to his or her spouse does not release you to do the same. It is wrong and ungodly even though other people are doing it.

I have driven in Kampala and I will tell you that it is very strange. Few people observe the law. I know people whom when they were stopped by police refuse to stop after all the police in many cases cannot do a chase due to very limited resources. These folks have no respect for law enforcement nor the police officers giving an excuse of them being corrupt. I was shocked hearing that these believers did not stop. It was mind boggling. Why was I shocked, and mind boggled? Because they knew better. They knew the right thing to do yet they did not do it. They did not obey—which is and was the right thing to do.

In many cases people respect queues at least in most of the places—but not when they encounter traffic jam, but why not? Do they not know what is the right thing to do? Of course, they do. Traffic jam brings the best or the worst out of people at least in Kampala, Uganda. The lack of discipline to keep the traffic queues is not acceptable especially when those that know what is right choose to do otherwise. They will drive in the opposite and/or via the wrong lane thereby creating a new lane and cut off other drivers who are a head of them in the queue. The unruly drivers care less for those who have been waiting in the traffic queue for so long. Here is how they think, or I have heard them say, *“Do you not know how important I am than you are? I do not have time. I cannot wait. I have to cut you off. By the way, you are stupid to sit there in traffic for so long. You can do exactly what I am doing.”* To them, the one who is in a queue is a fool or have nothing to do. Why keep the law and be in an endless queue especially when everyone else is breaking it? Right? Wrong! These wild drivers can come and find a queue of about 60 cars and they will drive and cut off 20 cars each time and then do it again. They have no respect and regard for anyone else nor the rule of law. I recall speaking to one of my staff about this and he said, *“If you sit there you will never get home.”* He was saying you have to break the law and disrespect all those who came before you because if you do not, you will never get home. Of course, that is not true. I have gotten home every time I have been in these long traffic jam queues. Yes, It took a little longer because I was respecting the law and others in the traffic queue, not cutting them off by driving from the back of the queue to the front of them.

Again, many people would not do this if it were a long human queue, it would be embarrassing to them but when it comes to driving, they do it. This is a double standard, and it is unacceptable.

There is one thing that I do. If someone will skip the queue or drive past the line to try to get a head of them and ask me to get into the line where I am—in front of me, I do not let them in. They can sweat blood or rocks, but I have no space for them if they have been disrespectful to others and the law. I will drive close to the vehicle in front of me (bumper to bumper) and will not let the traffic jam cheats in. I will not further that bad behavior. I will not reward it.

Let me end with this, I have also seen businesspeople who have different prices for different people. They will make up prices based on how you look, sound, or dressed. I have seen many people charge double or triple because they saw a white brother or sister. This is demonic, for a lack of better words. This ought not to be so. This is outright ungodly and unacceptable. Should you sound American or European, they instantly camouflage to cheat.

For some who offer services, if they find out that you are a ministry or an NGO (Non-Government Organization), they will charge you double or more. Why? They think these organizations have a lot of money, but even if they do, it is ungodly and unethical to cheat. The right thing has to be done. These are not godly business practices or dealings. This is taking advantage of people, organizations, or ministries. I detest these things. They are ungodly dealings. Many of these businesspeople will give you a quote where they will have you pay for every expenditure they incur plus their labor. In other words, they will transfer all the expense to the consumer. This is also ungodly. The businessperson has a share of expenses, but simply transferring all the costs to the buyer is not ethical and also shoots the prices through the roof. Many of these are there to simply collect all the profit and make consumer pay for all their costs. Although I believe they ought to make a profit—a living, not a killing (outrageous profit), the way most of it is done is unethical, ungodly, and wrong, yet many folks have accepted it as the way of life.

### **Doing the Right Thing but Not Following the Given Procedure and Instructions**

*And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.*

— 2 Samuel 6:3

Here is a lesson that very few people pay attention to. Here we see that David wanted to move the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Abinadab to the city of David. This was a good thing, and I believe God was delighted because King Saul never even had a single thought of doing this. However, the good and right thing was done in a wrong way. The right instructions and procedures were not followed. There were prescribed ways and order to follow when moving and

transporting the ark, but these men did not follow the prescribed order. **We cannot just hide behind good intentions, but we must follow the prescribed order and rules.** Ignorance of the law and directions of how to transport the Ark of the Covenant was no excuse. See Numbers 4:15 and Exodus 25:15.

We must do the right things, following the right and prescribed order. Many times, people do not want to follow the prescribed order of doing things as long as they do the right thing. This is a wrong attitude. Although the actions are commendable and admirable, we must strive to do both the right thing and follow the prescribed order of doing those things. If only the right order was followed while transporting the ark, this man's life (Uzzah) would not have been lost (2 Samuel 6:7). David and these men should have known better (Numbers 4:15). It was not God's fault because He was just following through with His commands and instructions of how the ark was to be treated and transported. Doing the right thing is not enough; we must follow the prescribed order and instructions (2 Samuel 6:3).

David violated God's instructions and his man paid a heavy price with his own life. This was David's fault (Numbers 3:31, Deuteronomy 10:8). Good intentions were not enough. These good intentions did not save this man's life. If David had followed the instructions and procedure, the story would have been different. The ark is similar to God's Word or say that it contained God's Word. It can release life and blessing or release curses depending on your response.

Later, when David adjusted and did the right thing and followed the instructions given by God in His Word, no man was killed, meaning it was done correctly the second time. We should always seek to do things God's way. If we are doing a God thing or a good thing, it must always be done God's way, following the given instructions, or else we miss out on and hinder the flow of God's blessing in our lives.