

Day 32 – Mar. 14

“Be very wary of anyone telling you they know what God says. He Himself told me so.”

David has Saul trapped. Saul is relieving himself in a cave that just happens to hold David’s army. David has a prime opportunity to kill Saul, which would (1) free him from being hunted by Saul and his troops all the time, (2) remove a bad leader from the throne, and (3) open the way for David to become king as God has wanted. This is the proverbial “no brainer”.

Yet David hesitates. He begins by simply cutting off a piece of Saul’s robe while he is busy. This is good insurance for later, come what may. But when his men see him hesitating, they decide to speak for God. They know David well enough to know he won’t be turned by their word alone, but he will follow God’s word flawlessly. “God obviously wants you to kill Saul because He’s put you in this place at this time,” they cajole.

And David doesn’t bite. Instead he acts as God would want him to, with mercy and patience. And in the end, he is rewarded with a free conscience, an equal result, and finally moral authority among the people and even his own family.

Oh, how often we take circumstances as God’s will, just as David’s men called him to in this story. We decide that because we are in the right place at the right time, it must be God’s will that we act in a certain way. But more often than not, just like David’s men we are simply looking to justify our own desires. They wanted Saul dead, and so they seek out omens, portents, and circumstances that seem to point in their favored direction.

God seldom calls us to follow our own will. And if circumstances seem to point in the direction we want to go, beware of those telling you “This is the will of God,” even if that person is you. Ask Moses how much God listened to his desires. Or Joshua. Or Gideon, or David. Or Jesus Himself. When people, circumstances, or anything else tell you what God says, be patient and test those voices. Is this just the way we want it to go? What is on this particular path for them? Might God be leading us in a less obvious, perhaps harder and scarier path?