

Title: minefield mayhem II – relating to authority
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A man after My heart

Acts 13:20–22 (NKJV) ²² And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'

The bait of Satan – the disappointment / offense

Luke 17:1 (NKJV) ¹ Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come..."

***Offense – skandalon.** Laying a trap in someone's way. An entrapment used by the enemy. Offense is a tool of the devil to bring people into captivity. To lead them astray, off the good road and into the minefield.

**Offense comes when we have been treated unjustly or believe we have been treated unjustly.*

- **The closer the person to us, the more it hurts.**

Matthew 24:10–13 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Will you pass the test? [King Saul & David]

King Saul was going way off track. He didn't do the will of God. He did his own will time and time again.

David's test lasted for years.

Saul killed 85 innocent priests, their wives, children and rest of the city of Nob. Madman.

***Wilderness of En Gedi – David cut off piece of his robe**

1 Samuel 24:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it.

- **The cry of a generation:** please mentor me! Please shepherd me! Father me!

***Army in Deep sleep**

1 Samuel 26:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

- Saul was cold-blooded murderer of 85 innocent priests and their families
- Army of 3000 seeking to kill David. Self-defense!
- David has already been anointed by prophet to become king
- God put the army to sleep – surely this is it! Take him out.
- **If David was offended...** it was tickets for Saul.

1 Samuel 26:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?" ¹⁰ David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish." ¹¹ The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go."

- **We have lost a culture of honouring** those around us, to a culture of negativity and criticism of everything and everyone. Especially leaders.
- **How many people today have a heart like David's?** We no longer kill with physical swords but ravage each other **with a sword of another kind – the tongue.**

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV) ²¹ Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

- **Churches split, families divide, marriages shatter and love dies**, crushed by an onslaught of words launched in hurt and frustration.
- Offended by friends, family, and leaders, **we take aim with words sharpened by bitterness** and anger.
- **The test of our hearts:** God will allow leaders, husbands, fathers to make mistakes. Why? To test our hearts.
- How's your mouth? How's your heart? Disappointed?

Hearts turning to one another

Malachi 4:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

- **Hearts of the children to the fathers :** a heart attitude.
- **Fathers to the children** – God wants the father hearts to turn to children. Looking after, mentoring, shepherding... yet the children need to be willing to receive.

1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

- **Submission is an attitude of the heart.** It is not simply doing what you're told, it is giving honour to those in authority.

Why humility?

1 Peter 5:6–8 (NKJV) ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- **Why? You humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God.** You are putting your trust in God.
- **He may exalt you in due time:** God will come through for us. God will turn our situations around. He will vindicate us.
- **Care (Merimna)** – “to divide” and “the mind.” The word denotes distractions, anxieties, burdens, and worries.

What enables us to trust in God? Knowing His love

How could David handle this so well?

Psalms 36:7–9 (NKJV) ⁷ How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. ⁸ They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. ⁹ For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

David found his strength and healing and courage in God. God was David's sustaining power. God's love never fails us!