

Just Sleeping Away

Scripture: “Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you” .~Hebrews 13:7 (NIV)

Should we respect leaders even when we know they are wrong? The answer to this question can be found in the story of Saul & David. Let me recap quickly the scene...

Some men came to Saul and told him that David was hiding in the desert. Saul had been looking for David and longed so much to kill him. So Saul went out with three thousand of his best soldiers to track David down. David, however, and his men were hiding in a cave. Upon hearing Saul was close by, David asked one of his men to go with him to Saul’s camp. As everyone went to sleep, David and Abishai crept into the camp where Saul and his soldiers were sleeping. Abishai said to David, “God has give you Saul’s life. Use your power and allow me kill him.” David, however, said, “No! He was the one God chose to be king. It is not up to use to take his life.” So David chose instead to take Saul’s water jug and spear. They left the camp without waking a single soldier. When David crossed to the other side of the valley, he shouted to Saul’s commander, “Abner! Aren’t you supposed to be the greatest soldier Saul has? Why then did you not protect your master, Saul, who is king? Where are the king’s belongings such as his spear and water jug?” When Saul heard David’s voice, he was ashamed of what he was doing. Saul yelled to David, “I have done you wrong. I won’t harm you again and will leave you be since you continually spare my life.” So David went one way and Saul returned home another way. So I ask this question again. Should we respect leaders who may not be godly or serving God like we do?

Imagine if there were no traffic officers to stop people who ignore the rules of the road, or imagine if there weren’t any rules at all. People would drive on the wrong side of the road and race through intersections, not caring for the safety of others. If a traffic officer does not believe in God, it does not give us the right to disobey or ignore him. Similarly, our parents, teachers, and everyone else who keeps order in our country should be obeyed and respected—whether they believe in God or not.

Prayer: Lord, help me to respect those who you have placed over me. I know they may not serve you or love you like others, but I still am told by you to respect their positions and respect their role in my life. Thank you for teaching me this simple truth. In Jesus name, Amen!

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