

DECISION MAKING: THE ESSENCE OF LEADERSHIP 2 SAM. 1:1-16

Decision making is the essence of leadership since followers:

- Wait for leaders to make decisions
- Criticize & gossip about decisions
- Are people paralyzed by decisions
- Flip flop in decisions
- Let others make decisions
- Make other decisions to cover for lack of decisions

Such as in marriage:

Such as with children:

This section is pervaded by **5 simple questions:**

2 Samuel 1:3 And David said unto him, **From whence comest thou?** And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.

2 Samuel 1:4 And David said unto him, **How went the matter?** I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.

2 Samuel 1:5 And David said unto the young man that told him, **How knowest thou** that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?

2 Samuel 1:13 And David said unto the young man that told him, **Whence art thou?** And he answered, I *am* the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.

2 Samuel 1:14 And David said unto him, **How wast thou not afraid** to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?

I. Leaders make decisions!

2 Samuel 1:15 And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, *and* fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.

What would / should David do?

II. Leaders don't always make **perfect** decisions!

The dilemma is in the text – did David make the right decision?

- David could have rewarded this young man
- David could have let him go
- David could have executed him

In the midst of all decision that are difficult, leaders face:

- The paralysis of analysis
- Indecision is the worst choice
- Indecision is a decision

III. Leaders can only make decisions with the information at hand!

Now we come to the information:

1. The author's / editor's / narrator's statement

1 Samuel 31:1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. **1 Samuel 31:2** And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; **and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.** **1 Samuel 31:3** **And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.** **1 Samuel 31:4** Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. **But** his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. **Therefore** Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. **1 Samuel 31:5** **And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.** **1 Samuel 31:6** **So Saul died,** and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

What's the problem with this information?

2. The young man's story

2 Samuel 1:2 It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and *so* it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance. **2 Samuel 1:3** And David said unto him, **From whence comest thou?** And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped. **2 Samuel 1:4** And David said unto him, **How went the matter?** I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; **and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.** **2 Samuel 1:5** And David said unto the young

man that told him, **How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?** 2 Samuel 1:6 And the young man that told him said, **As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa**, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. 2 Samuel 1:7 And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here *am I*. 2 Samuel 1:8 And he said unto me, Who *art* thou? And I answered him, I *am* an Amalekite. 2 Samuel 1:9 He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life *is* yet whole in me. 2 Samuel 1:10 So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: **and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.**

What can we conclude about this young man's story?

- **Israel lost the battle**
- **Saul & Jonathan were dead**
- **The young man had been at the battle**
- **The young man had physical evidence of being there**
- **The story contradicts 1 Samuel 31:2-6**

3. David's response

2 Samuel 1:11 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that *were* with him: 2 Samuel 1:12 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 1:13 And David said unto the young man that told him, **Whence art thou?** And he answered, I *am* the son of a stranger, an Amalekite. 2 Samuel 1:14 And David said unto him, **How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?** 2 Samuel 1:15 And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, *and* fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.

What might we conclude?

- **David didn't know about 1 Samuel 31**
- **David believed the young man**
- **David made his decision with the information at hand**
- **David needed more information & insight for a better decision!**

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

- **David points to our need of the final David!!!**

Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit of the **LORD** shall rest upon him, the spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the spirit of **counsel** and **might**, the spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear of the LORD**; Isaiah 11:3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: Isaiah 11:4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. Isaiah 11:5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

IV. Leaders must make decisions based on predetermined principles!

2 Samuel 1:14 And David said unto him, **How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?** 2 Samuel 1:15 And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, *and* fall upon him. And he smote him that he died. 2 Samuel 1:16 And David said unto him, **Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed.**

Whether the young man killed Saul or not, whether David read the information correctly or incorrectly, David's decision was based on a predetermined principle!!!

1 Samuel 24:6 And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he *is* the anointed of the LORD.

1 Samuel 26:9 And David said to Abishai, **Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?** 1 Samuel 26:10 David said furthermore, *As* the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. 1 Samuel 26:11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed....