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## “Heart of Submission“



### TODAY’S BIG IDEA

A heart of submission trusts God enough to honor authority while waiting on God’s timing.

Submission does NOT mean:

- Allowing ongoing abuse
- Never speaking up
- Being a doormat
- Disobeying God for the sake of people

**Biblical submission:** Hupotassó = “To obey and place oneself under”

### CONTEXT: DAVID & SAUL

After David defeated Goliath, Saul became deeply jealous of him. 1 Samuel 18:9 (NLT) “...Saul kept a jealous eye on David.”

### HOW SAUL MISTREATED DAVID

Saul’s attempts against David:

1. Tried to pin David to the wall with a spear - 1 Samuel 18:10–11
2. Sent David into dangerous battles hoping he’d die - 1 Samuel 18:12–13
3. Used the Philistines to try to kill David - 1 Samuel 18:17–30
4. Ordered Jonathan and servants to kill David - 1 Samuel 19:1
5. Threw another spear at David - 1 Samuel 19:9–10
6. Sent assassins to David’s house - 1 Samuel 19:11–17
7. Pursued David to Naioth - 1 Samuel 19:18–24
8. Hunted David through the wilderness - 1 Samuel 23–26

### THE CAVE MOMENT

**David refuses to kill Saul:** 1 Samuel 24 - David had the perfect opportunity to take revenge.

Instead:

- He spared Saul’s life
- He honored Saul as king
- He trusted God’s timing

### 1. A HEART OF SUBMISSION

**Honors authority** - even when authority is flawed

1 Samuel 24:10 (NLT) “...I will never harm the king—he is the LORD’s anointed one.”

David knew Saul was:

- Jealous
- Unstable
- Sinful
- Spiritually compromised

Yet David still honored the position God had given Saul.

**Submission says:**

“I trust God more than I trust my emotions.”

## 2. A HEART OF SUBMISSION

**Refuses retaliation** - 1 Samuel 24:12 (NLT) "...I will never harm you."

David had every reason to justify revenge. Instead, he chose restraint.

**Retaliation says** - "I'll take matters into my own hands."

**Submission says** - "God is my defender."

## 3. A HEART OF SUBMISSION

**Trusts God's timing** - David had already been anointed king...

...but refused to seize the throne through violence.

**Submission waits:**

- For God's timing
- For God's justice
- For God's promotion

## WHO ARE WE CALLED TO SUBMIT TO?

**Wives to husbands** - Ephesians 5:22-24, Colossians 3:18, Titus 2:3-5

**Children to parents** - Ephesians 6:1-3

**Employees to bosses** - Ephesians 6:5-7

**Christians to government** - Romans 13:1-2

**Christians to spiritual leaders** - Hebrews 13:17

**The church to Christ** - Ephesians 5:24

## FINAL THOUGHT

David submitted to and honored a king who was actively trying to kill him.

Most of us are not in situations that extreme.

Yet submission is still difficult because it requires:

- Humility
- Trust
- Patience
- Surrender

**A heart of submission says:**

"God, I trust You enough to honor authority and wait on Your timing."

**Small Group Discussion Questions:** Read or Story Tell 1 Samuel 24 - How does David justify his refusal to harm King Saul when he has the perfect opportunity to retaliate?

1. Biblical Submission means "To obey and place oneself under". David chose to trust God rather than his own emotions when facing Saul. Is there a difficult situation in your life that makes it hard for you to submit to God's timing right now?
2. When looking at those with (flawed authority) in your life, do you tend to honor the position God gave them, or do you find yourself internally rebelling because of their personal shortcomings?
3. In what area of your life are you struggling to let go of control and truly accept that God is your protector & defender? (Home, Marriage, Church, Workplace)
4. What is one practical step you can take this week to show honor to an authority without compromising your faith?