



INTRODUCTION: The word for temperance comes from the Greek word *egkrateia* meaning self control. Self control was Solomon's greatest failure.

II Samuel 12:24, "And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him."

I Kings 11:11-12, "Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. ¹² Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son."

Solomon had knowledge, but he failed to add temperance to his knowledge.

Proverbs 25:28, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."

I Corinthians 8:1, "Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."

BACKGROUND: While Solomon is the bad example of knowledge without temperance, David is the good example. In I Samuel 24, David and his men were hiding in a fairly large cave watching Saul and his men as they were marching by.

Saul wandered into the same cave as David and his men. You couldn't be more vulnerable than Saul. David's men were urging him to let them go and kill Saul for him. But look at David's response (I Samuel 24:4-5). David knew Saul was God's anointed. The point that we see in this narrative is the amazing amount of self-control that David displays. When Saul left the cave, David confronted him with the evidence of his mercy and it touched Saul's heart (I Samuel 24:16-22).

The second occasion in which David displayed self-control is in I Samuel 26. Saul and his men were hunting for David in the wilderness of Ziph. When Saul camped for the night, David and Abishai walked right up to where Saul and Abner were sleeping because God had caused a deep sleep to fall on them. Abishai offered to kill Saul (26:8-9). But again, David would not allow it.

David added to his knowledge temperance and even Saul admitted that he had the hand of God on him. There are several lessons that David showed us in acquiring temperance, strong self-control.

I. SUBMIT TO THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST (I SAMUEL 24:12, 15).

David refused to take matters that belonged to God into his own hands. He refused to act independently. We have temptation to take ourselves outside of God's hands, his working in us, and act independent of him. It's because of our knowledge; the very knowledge we were told to add to virtue, but we didn't follow it with temperance. Knowledge that is not preceded with virtue and not followed up with temperance is dangerous. It's because of our knowledge. David knew that submitting to the Lordship of Christ was to wait for God's timing and not force it.

"It is always far too costly to act outside of God's will." – David Cross

No doubt Saul remembered David's love for Jonathon. "Is this the voice of my son David?" (I Samuel 26:21). The hardest of preaching cannot bring down the conviction that comes from a heart of mercy and compassion.

II Corinthians 5:14, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:"

II. REST IN THE PRECIOUS PROMISES OF GOD (I PETER 1:4)

Psalms 57:1-3, "1 <<To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.>> Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. ² I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me. ³ He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth."

III. EXPERIENCE A NEW MEASURE OF GOD'S POWER (I SAMUEL 24:20; 26:25)

Out of David's intimate fellowship with God there arose a measure of God's power that could keep 600 rough warriors in subjection to God's sovereign rule and bring conviction to even an ungodly man like Saul. That same measure of God's power is available to you and to me. David, who submitted himself to the authority of God, would later become the authority over others. Saul, who rebelled against God's sovereignty, lost his authority over others.

II Corinthians 12:7-10, "7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸ For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."