

- **GREAT LEADERS DO NOT RESPOND NEGATIVELY TO DEMOTION:**
 - David had been on the fast track to military greatness.
 - He was the man everyone knew would lead the army of Israel to victory.
 - But, to try and silence the inevitable, Saul chose to demote David to serve as a “*captain over a thousand.*”
 - What was David’s response? He led the thousand men as if he were over the entire army.
 - The size of an army doesn’t make someone great. It’s the size of the heart.
 - Nothing Saul could do could demote David’s heart.
 - Demotion will come to everyone at some time and some place in their life.
 - Remember that it’s not the determining factor of your life.
 - Your response to demotion speaks volumes about your character. Respond w/ greatness.

- **GREAT LEADERS DO NOT RESPOND IN PRIDE TO PROMOTION:**
 - We’d be remiss, if we didn’t look at the other side of the same coin.
 - One of the greatest character qualities in David’s life is his humility.
 - He was only great in the eyes of others; not his own.
 - In the future, we will see pride enter his life on a few occasions, and the results carried with them grave consequences.
 - Each time we see pride enter his life, we’ll also see how quickly the LORD leads David to repentance.
 - At this season of his life, we never see David tell anyone about the anointing that the LORD placed on his life through the prophet Samuel.
 - We also never see David boasting about his military exploits.
 - **Psalm 75:6** speaks to the fact that God is the one who exalts and promotes a person.
 - Quote from Chuck Swindoll: “For every 999 people who can handle defeat, there’s one who can handle success.”

- Cemetery Story:
 - Stand over the grave of an evil man, who did many evil things in life
 - Tell them how bad they were.
 - Tell them how much you dislike them.
 - Tell them they brought great shame to their family.
 - It won’t have any effect on them, because they’re dead
 - Stand over the grave of a good man, who did many good things in life
 - Tell them how good they were.
 - Tell them how much you like and admire them.
 - Tell them they brought great honor to their family.
 - It won’t have any effect on them, because they’re dead

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Luke 9:23-25 *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life*

for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

- **GREAT LEADERS GO THE EXTRA MILE, ESPECIALLY IN ADVERSITY:**
 - It's easy to become disenchanted and discouraged during times of adversity.
 - It's easy to only do what is necessary to survive in the moment.
 - It's easy to allow circumstance to beat you up and beat you down.
 - The phrase, "The cream rises to the top" is written about those who succeed in adversity
 - When David was asked to kill 100 Philistines to appease his adversary, he killed 200.
 - Being great is a choice that someone makes in his/her heart.
 - The manifestation of the choice is what you see on the battlefields of life.

- **GREAT LEADERS ARE RESILIENT IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSITY:**
 - David is catapulted from sleeping in the palace of King Saul to living in caves as the sworn enemy of the king.
 - He goes from being the darling of a nation to a man without a nation
 - It's easy to become disenchanted and discouraged during times of adversity.
 - He's removed from being the leader of God's army to leading the outcasts of society.
 - He's forced to flee without provision or protection.
 - **But**, David was resilient.
 - His zip code did not define him.
 - His 401-K is not what made him great.
 - The skill and prowess of those he led, did not define his leadership.
 - David played the hand he was dealt with great skill and tremendous resolve.
 - The LORD alone, would determine his outcome.
 - The LORD alone, will determine our outcome, too.

- **GREAT LEADERS DON'T COMPLAIN WHEN ADVERSITY COMES:**
 - David made the most of his situation & you never see him complaining to people
 - He may complain to God, but he always did it privately.
 - He never holds a pity party.
 - He never uses his plight to bring others down.
 - Great leaders are not complainers.
 - People may listen to you complain, but they won't want to be around you for long.

- **GREAT LEADERS ARE MOTIVATORS, EVEN IN ADVERSITY:**
 - When David was forced to the hills, what was it that caused men to seek him out?
 - Why did the destitute, discouraged, distraught, dismayed, depressed and indebted choose him to be their leader? **Because he made them BELIEVE.**
 - One of the most positive people in the Bible was Barnabas. His name means "encourager." People want to be around encouragers. Be an encourager.
 - Harriet Tubman (1857)
 - Her first biographer, Sarah Bradford, said that Tubman told her: "I had reasoned this out in my mind: there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death. If I could not have one, I would have the other, for no man should take me alive. I should fight for my

liberty as my strength lasted, and when the time came for me to go, the Lord would let them take me.”

- Tubman knew that escaped slaves who returned to their slave owners would be beaten and tortured until they gave information about those who had helped them. Therefore, Tubman never allowed and people she was guiding to give up. She said:
 - “Dead folks tell no tales”
 - She would tell faint hearted slaves, as she put a loaded pistol to his head, “You go on or die!”
- Between 1850 and 1860, she guided more than **300** people, including many of her own family members to freedom. She made **19** trips in all and never lost a single person under her care (WOW)!
- Southern whites put a **\$12,000** bounty on her head – a fortune back then.
- Southern blacks called her Moses.
- People of prominence sought her out.
 - Senator William Seward, who later became Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln, sought her advice and leadership.
 - John Brown, famed revolutionary abolitionist, called her “General Tubman” and said, she “was a better officer than most whom he had seen,”
- Tubman didn’t let her circumstances define her:
 - She was uneducated.
 - She lived in a culture that didn’t respect African-Americans
 - She lived in a country where women, at the time, didn’t have the right to vote.
- Tubman motivated people by:
 - Being strong!
 - Being committed!
 - Leading through adversity!

- **GREAT LEADERS DON’T BLAME GOD FOR ADVERSITY:**

- David never blames God.
- In the Psalms, David:
 - Cries out to God in his distress
 - Questions God on why He doesn’t seem to be present
 - Repents of actions that cause disfavor from God.
- Blame is the default in human nature.
 - Adam blamed God for giving him Eve.
 - Eve blamed the serpent.
- *If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)*
- *We are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)*

- **GREAT LEADERS ARE RESPECTED BY THEIR ENEMIES AND SOMETIMES ARE SOUGHT AFTER BY THEM:**

- *Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (1 Peter 2:11-12)*
- David, who was once the most feared enemy of the Philistines, became the champion of

their army.

- David's life was such a picture of righteousness, purity, victory and Godliness that even his enemy, who did not share his beliefs were moved to embrace him because of his conduct and lifestyle.
- Five other examples from the Bible are seen in:
 - Joseph, a man living in exile in Egypt, was promoted to the second highest position in the world, second only to Pharaoh
 - Daniel, a stranger and foreigner living in exile in Babylon and Medo-Persia, would ultimately be the most influential person in both kingdoms, second only to the king
- If people are going to bring accusation against you, may it not be because of your conduct. You can win over your enemies by looking like Jesus.
- *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:20)*

- **GREAT LEADERS LISTEN TO SOUND ADVICE WHEN THEY ARE THINKING EMOTIONALLY AND IRRATIONALY (1 Samuel 25):**

- Nabal was a very rich man. He had 1,000 goats, 3,000 sheep and many shepherds.
- He was also a very wicked, foolish and stingy man. His name is translated "fool."
- The sheep and shepherds were easy prey during shearing time.
- David and his men showed up and provided a wall of protection around them.
 - They protected them, so that not a single sheep or shepherd was harmed under their watch.
 - It was customary during that time, to pay the men who protected you from wild animals and thieves.
 - David sent 10 of his men to ask Nabal to provide food for his men, in exchange for the protection they provided. This was a customary thing to do in the culture.
 - Nabal refused the request in a very ugly and condescending way. He acted as if he didn't know who David was.
 - This was foolish, b/c everyone knew David and the fighting capability of him and his men.
 - Nabal's wicked & arrogant response caused David to get extremely angry.
 - David told 400 of his men to strap on their swords and saddle up.
 - Nabal and his entire household were about to get massacred, b/c of his pride, greed and stupidity.
 - One of Nabal's servants had the good sense to tell Nabal's wife, Abigail, what had just happened. He knew that eminent danger was upon them, b/c of his wicked master. Abigail was a beautiful and intelligent woman. She "listened" to the servant and began to act immediately to save Nabal and the entire household. She assembled the servants to prepare food and take other provisions to David and his men before they arrived.
 - Abigail rode on her donkey with the caravan. When they intercepted David's men, she got off her donkey, bowed her head before David and begged him not to waste his time or tarnish his reputation on a wicked and worthless fool like Nabal. She gave a great speech along with the goods.

- Abigail’s quick and wise actions, saved her wicked and foolish husband and their entire household. It also kept David from acting in a rash and evil manner. David “listened” to her wise advice, when he wasn’t thinking clearly and about to avenge himself, instead of trusting God.
- Abigail returned home. Nabal was hosting a huge party with lots of food and drink to celebrate the great harvest that had happened. He was drunk.
- Abigail waited until the next morning, when Nabal was sober, to tell him what had happened the previous day. Upon hearing the report, Nabal had a massive stroke and died 10 days later.
- When David heard the news about Nabal, he praised the LORD for keeping him from doing wrong against Nabal and bringing Nabal’s wrongdoing down on his own head. He also sent word to Abigail asking her to become his wife.
- Make sure you surround yourself with people who will speak the truth in love into your life. Beware of surrounding yourself with “Yes Men and Women.”
- *Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. (Proverbs 15:22)*

- **GREAT LEADERS KNOW THEIR TIME WILL COME AND THEY PATIENTLY WAIT FOR THAT TIME:**

- David had been anointed the next King of Israel by the Prophet Samuel.
- David knew his destiny.
- Everyone he encountered verified what God had promised through Samuel.
- Patience is definitely a virtue, and it may be one of the hardest virtues to develop in life.
- Patience is a Fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22**).
 - Fruit requires something to “die” in order for it to grow.
 - Fruit also requires “time” in order for it to grow.
- It’s not easy to wait on what we know is ours.
- The time from David being anointed to be king and actually becoming king was 13 years.
- That’s an incredibly long time to wait for someone who is superior in every respect to the person who currently holds his position.
- David NEVER undermined Saul. David NEVER attempted to take the position by coup...even though he was often encouraged to do so.
- “It’s not the position that makes the leader. It’s the leader that makes the position.” Stanley Huffy
- *But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (Romans 8:25)*