



I SAMUEL

# Turnarounds

a *Central* series  
ASSEMBLY



An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The road has white lane markings and a small arrow pointing forward on the left side. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the road as it disappears into the woods.

# Responding to *Abusive* Authority

1 SAMUEL 18-26



An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves sharply to the right. The road is flanked by dense vegetation with autumn-colored leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The road surface shows some wear and a white dashed line marking. The text "Saul threw spears..." is overlaid in a yellow, serif font across the middle of the road's curve.

**Saul threw spears...**



## I SAMUEL 18:10-11

<sup>10</sup> The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand <sup>11</sup> and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.



## I SAMUEL 19:9-10

<sup>9</sup> But an evil spirit from the Lord came on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the lyre, <sup>10</sup> Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape.



An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves sharply to the right. The road is surrounded by a dense forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn colors in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day. The text is centered over the curve of the road.

**David refused to  
throw them back...**



## I SAMUEL 24:4b-6

<sup>4</sup> ....Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. <sup>5</sup> Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. <sup>6</sup> He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; **for he is the anointed of the Lord.**"



## I SAMUEL 26:10-11

<sup>10</sup> As surely as the Lord lives,” he [David] said, “the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. <sup>11</sup> But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on **the Lord’s anointed**. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let’s go.”



# What do Godly leaders look like?

Godly leaders don't control people,  
they influence them.

Godly leaders don't use people,  
they serve them.

Godly leaders don't resist accountability,  
they expect it.



An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves sharply to the right, forming a large 'U' shape. The road is surrounded by a dense forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn colors in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day. The text 'What if your leader is a Saul?' is overlaid in the center of the image in a yellow, serif font.

**What if your leader is a Saul?**



# What if your leader is a Saul?

Be discerning while keeping  
a high view of spiritual authority.



## I SAMUEL 24:6b

<sup>6</sup> ...“The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.”



## HEBREWS 13:17

<sup>17</sup> 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.



# What if your leader is a Saul?

Be discerning while keeping  
a high view of spiritual authority.

Confront what is wrong without  
needlessly harming the church.



## **MATTHEW 7:15-16a, 19**

<sup>15</sup> “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.  
<sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. ...<sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.



## I TIMOTHY 5:19-20

<sup>19</sup> Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup> But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning.



## **I CORINTHIANS 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.



# What if your leader is a Saul?

Be discerning while keeping  
a high view of spiritual authority.

Confront what is wrong without  
needlessly harming the church.

Don't let yourself be wrongfully  
victimized for the sake of loyalty.



<sup>10</sup> ...That night David made good **his escape**.

**I SAMUEL 19:10b**

<sup>10</sup> That day **David fled** from Saul  
and went to Achish king of Gath.

**I SAMUEL 21:10**



## **GALATIANS 1:10**

<sup>10</sup> Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.



## ACTS 5:29

<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!”



# What if your leader is a Saul?

Be discerning while keeping  
a high view of spiritual authority.

Confront what is wrong without  
needlessly harming the church.

Don't let yourself be wrongfully  
victimized for the sake of loyalty.

Stay focused on Jesus, not those who fail him.



## COLOSSIANS 1:17-20

<sup>17</sup> He [Jesus] is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.



## COLOSSIANS 1:17-20

<sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.





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