



KINGS | Week 4
Bill Bush | 05.06.2023

BIG IDEA | The REAL challenge is allowing ourselves to BE challenged.

1 Samuel 19:1-10 (NLT)

¹ Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David. But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David, ² told him what his father was planning. “Tomorrow morning,” he warned him, “you must find a hiding place out in the fields. ³ I’ll ask my father to go out there with me, and I’ll talk to him about you. Then I’ll tell you everything I can find out.”

⁴ The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him. “The king must not sin against his servant David,” Jonathan said. “He’s never done anything to harm you. He has always helped you in any way he could. ⁵ Have you forgotten about the time he risked his life to kill the Philistine giant and how the Lord brought a great victory to all Israel as a result? You were certainly happy about it then. Why should you murder an innocent man like David? There is no reason for it at all!”

⁶ So Saul listened to Jonathan and vowed, “As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be killed.”

⁷ Afterward Jonathan called David and told him what had happened. Then he brought David to Saul, and David served in the court as before.

⁸ War broke out again after that, and David led his troops against the Philistines. He attacked them with such fury that they all ran away.

⁹ But one day when Saul was sitting at home, with spear in hand, the tormenting spirit from the Lord suddenly came upon him again. As David played his harp, ¹⁰ Saul hurled his spear at David. But David dodged out of the way, and leaving the spear stuck in the wall, he fled and escaped into the night.

Four Requirements of Accountability:

1. Availability - Accessible and interruptible

2. Honesty - Committed to the truth, even if it hurts

3. Vulnerability - Capable of admitting mistakes and sin

4. Teachability - Slow to speak, quick to listen, willing to respond to challenge

2 Samuel 19:1-8 (NLT)

¹ Word soon reached Joab that the king was weeping and mourning for Absalom. ² As all the people heard of the king's deep grief for his son, the joy of that day's victory was turned into deep sadness. ³ They crept back into the town that day as though they were ashamed and had deserted in battle. ⁴ The king covered his face with his hands and kept on crying, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

⁵ Then Joab went to the king's room and said to him, "We saved your life today and the lives of your sons, your daughters, and your wives and concubines. Yet you act like this, making us feel ashamed of ourselves. ⁶ You seem to love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that your commanders and troops mean nothing to you. It seems that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died, you would be pleased. ⁷ Now go out there and congratulate your troops, for I swear by the Lord that if you don't go

out, not a single one of them will remain here tonight. Then you will be worse off than ever before.”

⁸ So the king went out and took his seat at the town gate, and as the news spread throughout the town that he was there, everyone went to him.

The Reactions to Accountability

- **No!**
- **Why?**
- **Who?**
- **How?**

The Roadblocks to Accountability

- **Pride**
- **Fear**

The Reasons for Accountability

- More likely to see the whole picture

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron,
so a friend sharpens a friend.

- **Less likely to stumble**

Proverbs 15:31-33 (NLT)

³¹ If you listen to constructive criticism,
you will be at home among the wise.

³² If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself;
but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.

³³ Fear of the Lord teaches wisdom;
humility precedes honor.

- Not likely to get away with sinful and unwise behavior

Proverbs 27:5-6 (NLT)

⁵ An open rebuke

is better than hidden love!

⁶ Wounds from a sincere friend

are better than many kisses from an enemy.

GROUPS QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when someone challenged you, but you didn't listen. What was your response and why were you unwilling to listen to them?
2. Now talk about a time when someone challenged you, and you did listen. What was your first reaction and why were you willing to listen to them?
3. Pastor Bill gave four reactions to accountability: no, why, who, and how. Normally, what is your first reaction when someone tries to hold you accountable? Why?
4. Who in your life helps to keep you accountable? How can our group help each other to be more accountable?
5. Where in your life do you need to be challenged and held accountable?

DIVING DEEPER

Read 1 Samuel 20:24-33. Here we see Jonathan confront Saul for a second time and Saul's reaction was to hurl a spear at his own son.

- • Why is it easy to lash out at the person trying to hold us accountable for something we don't want to hear?
- • How do we avoid attacking someone when they confront us?
- • How do we prepare our hearts ahead of time to receive constructive criticism?

Read 1 Samuel 24:8-22. When David confronted Saul after sparing his life, Saul's first reaction was to weep and agree that his desire to kill David was wrong. Yet Saul's words did not match his actions and he continued to pursue David's life.

- • Think about the last time that someone confronted you and you told them just what they wanted to hear. Yet your actions still didn't match your words. Did you disagree with them but did not want to have the conversation? Did you disagree

with their conclusion about you? Did you take it as a personal insult? Or were you just not willing to do the hard work to change?

- If you discovered that their opinion was right, would you be willing to allow someone to hold you accountable? Why or why not?