

Root Out Sin  
2 Samuel 1:6-16

Today, listen to the voice of the Lord.

How is he calling you this summer?

You are with David, preparing for kingship. Like David, your nemesis the devil, has been defeated by the grace of God. Sloth is a kind of ambivalence about spiritual discipline and one's duties, while the remedy is a sharp conscience.

Pray that the Lord draws you out of sloth to embrace the kingly mission he has given you. Pray for the grace of freedom and humility for all Exodus Men, just as they are praying for you.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa; and there was Saul leaning upon his spear; and lo, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him. And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' And he said to me, 'Stand beside me and slay me; for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.' So I stood beside him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen; and I took the crown which was on his head and the armlet which was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord." Then David took hold of his clothes, and rent them; and so did all the men who were with him; and they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. And David said to the young man who told him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite." David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, fall upon him." And he smote him so that he died. And David said to him, "Your blood be upon your head; for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have slain the Lord's anointed.'"

Reflection

While we would expect David to mourn the death of Jonathan, his good friend and ally, we would not expect him to mourn the death of his enemy, King Saul. We might expect him to celebrate or express joyful relief. Yet, notice David's regard for the Lord, who had established Saul as king. He immediately rends his clothes and mourns the death of Saul. Then, David has

the man who slayed Saul killed because he dared to think himself worthy of killing the Lord's anointed.

Here is the man who terrorized David and created so much grief in his life. And yet, David still mourns his death and honors him because the Lord anointed him. We know that twice, David himself passed up the opportunity to kill Saul. David acts decisively to honor God and avenge Saul.

David, however, was not the one to overcome Saul and set himself up as king in his place. Rather, he waited patiently for the Lord's will to be done. Saul ultimately undid himself in his pride, the fruit of his resistance of complete obedience to the Lord. There is a proper balance of waiting upon God and acting when necessary.

This is a lesson to us: if we are to remain vigilant against sin; if we are to avoid spiritual sloth or lethargy; we must act quickly to root out sin in our lives and in our environment. We must not let evil reside in us.

Consider this question in prayer today: what sins or sinners are you allowing to linger in your life because you find them useful or comforting?

Now place yourself before God, and converse with him.

#### Day 5 Action Item

Stay moderate with alcohol.

Summer could be a time to let down our guard. Our Plan of Life can help us to stay focused on growing spiritually and guarding against our weaknesses. We should relax and enjoy time with others during vacation and downtime while not giving into sinful excess. Make a plan for the moderate use of alcohol and be firm in sticking to it.

Attend to how alcohol impacts you. Does it impact how you follow the other disciplines? Does it affect how you relate to your family? As you discern this, you can adjust your Plan of Life if necessary.