

# Made Through Persecution

Part three of the series, "Made for Greatness: After God's Heart"

---

Saturday, October 15, 2022 | Edwin Izumigawa

*"When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. <sup>7</sup>As they danced, they sang: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.' <sup>8</sup>Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. 'They have credited David with tens of thousands,' he thought, 'but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?' <sup>9</sup>And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David. <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. <sup>12</sup>Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed from Saul." (1 Samuel 18:6-12 NIV)*

## **Obedience to God is not dependent on your circumstances.**

*"He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. <sup>4</sup>The men said, 'This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, "I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" 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.' <sup>7</sup>With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way. <sup>8</sup>Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, 'My lord the king!' When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. <sup>9</sup>He said to Saul, 'Why do you listen when men say, "David is bent on harming you"? <sup>10</sup>This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, "I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed." <sup>11</sup>See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. <sup>12</sup>May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. <sup>13</sup>As the old saying goes, "From evildoers come evil deeds," so my hand will not touch you.'" (1 Samuel 24:3-13 NIV)*

## **Persecution reveals the condition of your heart.**

*"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.' <sup>7</sup>With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way." (1 Samuel 24:5-7 NIV)*

## **Greatness comes from fixing our eyes on God.**

*"But David said to Abishai, 'Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? <sup>10</sup>As surely as the Lord lives,' he 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.' <sup>12</sup>So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the Lord had put them into a deep sleep.'" (1 Samuel 26:9-12 NIV)*