

“Why Then Have You Not Kept Watch?”

“Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. And David called to the army, & to Abner the son of Ner, saying, ‘Will you not answer, Abner?’ Then Abner answered, ‘Who are you who calls to the king?’ And David said to Abner, ‘Are you not a man? Who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord. This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the LORD’S anointed. And now see where the king’s spear is & the jar of water that was at his head’” (1 Sam. 26:13-16).

David, as he was being chased throughout the wilderness by king Saul, had several opportunities to put an end to the madness but chose rather to spare the Lord’s anointed (**1 Sam. 24:4ff; 26:1ff**). The above cited passage serves as proof of David’s intent, as well as a warning to all of God’s people, past and present, to be ever on guard for their arch enemy, Satan!

David, as he addressed Abner, teaches us that calling one’s attention to their shortcomings isn’t easy, but necessary (**1 Sam. 26:13-15**). The easy thing for David to have done was to leave having never said anything about what had transpired. But that’s not what he chose to do. Saul was the Lord’s anointed, and David, despite Saul’s actions against him, felt compelled to call Abner out for his failure to protect the king. For the well-being and security of one’s eternal soul, we need men like David who are not afraid to stand and speak against sin (**cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-2; 1 Cor. 5:1ff; Acts 24:25; Acts 8:20ff; Mat. 26:40-41**). Bringing awareness to one’s sin-problem may save them from future harm (**Jam. 5:20**).

David, as he cried out to Abner, informs us that a failure to keep watch spiritually can be deadly (**1 Sam. 26:16**). Abner’s actions were deserving of death! And a failure on our part to

keep watch spiritually is also deserving of such **(Rom. 6:23; 1 The. 5:1ff)**. It's imperative that we maintain our watch until the battle has been won **(Rev. 2:10)**!

Within the hands of David was the evidence of Abner's failure, Saul's spear and water jug **(1 Sam. 26:16)**. There was no denying it! It was there for all to see, including King Saul! And the proof of our loyalty and commitment to our King, Jesus, is out there for all to see **(cf. Mat. 7:16; 2 Cor. 3:2; Acts 4:13; Mat. 5:16; John 13:35)**. As we, as well as others, examine the evidence, what does it say about our performance?

Fortunately for Saul and his men, David did them no harm. But that's not the intent of our arch enemy Satan. He seeks to destroy us **(1 Pet. 5:8)**! Thus, it's imperative that we stay awake spiritually. Don't allow the enemy to come between you and your KING!

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