

DAVID WINS THE THRONE

STORY BY THE "HIGHWAY AND BYWAY" PREACHER

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Scripture Authority: — 2 Samuel 2:1-32.

SERMONETTE.

David's success brought with it no bitterness of regret over the means by which that success had been won.

Had David purchased success at the compromise of principle, or the commission of crime, it would have cast a cloud upon his life which would have overshadowed him to the very grave itself.

Take success in the world today which is achieved by questionable means, how certainly do the misdeeds uncover themselves at last, and relentlessly and persistently follow the perpetrator.

Success won by any but fair means brings unrest of soul, and merits the contempt and scorn of the world.

What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world at the sacrifice of honor, or obedience to God's law, or service to his brother man?

Faith that can wait brings success which will endure. The road of present expediency does not lead to the land of perfect realization.

It was a long time from the anointing at Bethlehem until the crowning at Hebron. But the God who promises at Bethlehem is the God who can keep through the vicissitudes of the years and can fulfill to the minutest detail his spoken word.

The man who is willing to take only the success which God gives is the man into whose hands God commits his most important trusts.

David's chief adviser was the Heavenly Friend whose wisdom is above man's wisdom, and whose faithfulness never slackens.

How often in the chapters before us we find the statement that David inquired of the Lord as to the course he should pursue. Even this man of affairs with the discipline of the years upon him dare not trust to his own wisdom. He must seek the Divine guidance, by which alone he could walk in the straight path which would deliver him from the snares of the enemy and establish him in the kingdom which so long before had been promised to him.

In all of his tribulations and adversities David was the cheerful optimist whose vision was from above even while his feet walked the uncertain pathways of the world.

We may not all be called to kingdoms, but we may all have the privilege of the Divine guidance and the consciousness that God's presence is with us, be the place we fill ever so humble.

THE STORY.

AFTER the ocean tempest come the subdued winds and the subsiding waves; the heavens stretch blue and beautiful from horizon to horizon, and the golden sunshine fills all the balmy air. But along the rock-bound shore the wreckage lies in mad confusion a sad reminder of the storm of the night

before. There in mute protest to Nature's friendly mood are the torn and shattered timbers of the noble ship which has gone down into the merciless maw of the mighty waters. There strewn along the beach is the water-soaked cargo, and from beneath the confusion of piled wreckage appears the hand, the foot, the battered head of some hapless victim. Nature so peaceful and reassuring, and yet bringing but poor comfort to the heart which contemplates the ruin before it.

So was it in Israel. The storm of battle has passed; the clash of arms is stilled, the thunder of rushing war chariots and the mad cries of multitudes of men joined in death struggle have died away, and those who have not fallen in battle have scattered to their homes while the victorious army of the Philistines laden with plunder has returned home again.

The sky is blue as before, the sun cheery and warm, the breezes laden with perfume from the flowering fields, and the birds, unconscious of the tragedy of war—of the King and his sons slain, and of the mourning in many a home in Israel whither the father, and the son, the sweetheart and brother would never more return—pouring out their little souls in glad melody, but in the hearts of the people a note of deep anguish and anxious foreboding. Oh, the agony of those days, weeping for the lost and fearing for the living. With blanched cheeks and trembling lips the people talked together of the tragic end of King Saul and his sons, of the mutilation of their bodies, of their hanging from the walls of Beth-shan, a ghastly trophy of the fortunes of war, of the placing of the king's armor in the temple of Ashteroth the Philistine god; of these and the thousand and one other bloody details of the terrible battle the people talked, and wondered what further misfortune awaited the nation.

With Saul and his three sons dead, who was there to lead the nation? Confusion and uncertainty prevailed. Even Abner the leader of the hosts of Israel was apparently unable to rally his forces and suggest some plan of action. The people were as sheep without a shepherd. So for days and weeks the disorder and confusion continued, even as far south as in the land of Judah. And there the stirring reports of the battle with its ill consequences to Israel were repeated over and over again, and the same questions stirred the hearts of the people as to who now would lead them as troubled the northern tribes. In the spirit of much depression the elders of Judah came together to consider the situation, meeting secretly in one of the little obscure towns lest if they assembled at Hebron, their chief city, news of the meeting might reach the ears of the Philistines and stir them to immediate attack.

It was but natural that the first thought should be of David, and some were for an immediate sending of a messenger to him inviting his return to Judah, but just as they were about to do so a runner brought tidings that David had joined his forces with those of Achish, the Philistine king, and had shared in the recent battle which had resulted so disastrously to the army of Israel.

"What, David fight against his brethren in Israel?" the elders exclaimed.

"Yes," replied the messenger. "Thou knowest how he has been dwelling in the land of the Philistines for now these many months, and how King Achish gave him Ziklag in which to dwell. And Achish made league with him and trusted him as he might a brother, so that when he gathered his armies to go out against the armies of Israel he took David and his men along."

A long painful silence followed this disconcerting news. Whither, now, indeed, would Judah turn. David had fallen them. Now that he had taken up arms against his own countrymen there could never more be place for

him in Judah. And with even greater depression than before the elders departed to their homes.

But the next day strange things had happened in Judah. The elders sent messengers to each other with the query:

"Hath David sent aught to thee? Behold, when I arrived home I found there awaiting me a goodly portion of the spoil which David had sent with loyal greetings. What thinkest thou concerning it?"

It can be imagined what surprise and astonishment such tidings brought to each of the elders and hastily they reassembled early on the following day to consider the matter. Then it was that the full details of David's return to Ziklag, his pursuit of the enemy which had burned his city and carried off the women and children, and of his recovery of everything which had been taken, were made known.

"Then he did not fight with the Philistines against Israel?" they exclaimed, one to the other, their depression giving place to the joy of a new hope.

"Let us send greetings at once to David, and invite him to return," eagerly suggested one.

"But who is there who will dare go into the land of the Philistines to carry him word. If the coming of such messenger reaches the ears of the Philistines, I fear it will go hard with David, and may bring the Philistine armies down upon us," spoke up another cautiously.

Then followed an earnest discussion which was suddenly interrupted by the entrance of a breathless runner who exclaimed as soon as he was able to recover the power of speech: "David! Hebron!"

"What's that you say?" fairly shouted the elders, so excited were they. "David has come to Hebron?"

The messenger nodded his head in assent, and added:

"Yea, and he hath brought all his men and all his substance, and his wives and all whatsoever he hath."

"Then let us go up to Hebron and there anoint him as our king. Surely God has looked down upon us in our distress, and hath sent a deliverer."

And so it was that the men of Judah came and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

Kashgaria.

There are few places in the world so difficult to get at as Kashgaria. Though it lies in Chinese territory the journey from Peking occupies no less than six months. From India caravans take two months, having to cross meanwhile the three highest mountain ranges in the world by way of several passes measuring 18,000 feet above sea level.

Then from the tailend of the Russian railway system in Central Asia one may reach Kashgar in three weeks by several routes, all involving the transit of difficult and storm-swept passes.

Kashgaria is said to cover an area of 350,000 square miles—a statement that has little interest until considered in relation to the proportion which is cultivated by man. It is startling to relate that human endeavor has been capable of rendering fertile little more than a hundredth part and that ninety-nine hundredths of it is irredeemable desert.

Natural Soap Baths.

Natural soap baths are not an unmixed blessing. The curious soap spring that forms a wonder of a village in Timor, East Indian Islands, consists of a small elevated mud cone, from which bubbles up water heavily charged with alkali and radium, the discharge giving the appearance of a miniature volcano. A disadvantage of such a washing place is that vegetation is ruined for miles around.

Boots Worn by Great Protector.

In London the other day a pair of riding boots worn by Oliver Cromwell were sold for \$43. They were discovered 30 years ago during some excavations at Canonbury tower, Islington

strictor had just seized a deer by the nose and was choking off its wind. The constrictor received a charge of buckshot full in the neck and fell without a struggle. The wound is now represented by a jagged hole in the skin about three inches in diameter.

Mr. Wickersham says he has seen one constrictor even larger, 36 feet. For the purpose of convincing the skeptical that there are such monsters in these islands he has agreed to place the skin on exhibition.—*Manila Times.*

Novelty in Entertainments.

A Paris paper says that on every Sunday Mrs. Mackay receives her friends in a secluded corner of the Latin quarter's most famous park in Paris. The refreshments at these entertainments are supplied by passing vendors, such as old women who sell tempting raisin cake and other like dainties. The paper adds to this account, which, whether or not authentic, is pleasant to believe, that these novel little affairs have been most successful and are a great relief after more formal entertainments.

HELPING THE TOWN

HINTS AS TO MAKING THE HOME MARKET BETTER.

HANDLING OF FARM PRODUCE

How Merchants and Farmers Can Co-Operate to Their Mutual Advantage in a Business Way.

Many agricultural towns could be vastly improved by affording farmers better markets for the produce that they have to dispose of. In the radius of every country village there is sufficient butter and eggs and other products to be marketed, the handling of which would make a profitable business.

The custom that has prevailed for many years of storekeepers indiscriminately handling produce does not appear to be to the best interests of towns or it may be said, to the merchants or the farmers. In the first place the average storekeeper has no facilities for the proper handling of perishable products. He may not receive sufficient to enable him to dispose of the product to the greatest advantage. Therefore instead of making any profit upon what he handles, many times he is the loser and looks for his compensation in the trade that may be given him by the farmers who bring in the produce.

It is important to a town whether it is reputed to be a good produce market or otherwise. Where the farmer can receive a cent or two more for his butter and eggs he is likely to turn his attention. In some towns there are regular buyers of produce, but often these methods are such as to be unsatisfactory and result in loss of trade to the place.

Merchants generally exchange goods for whatever produce may be brought to them. In many places they will not pay cash, and it has been known where cash has been paid that it immediately found its way to some other town where goods was purchased.

Each town that has any considerable patronage from the farming community surrounding it, should have a small cold storage plant. One plan that has been found practicable in many towns is the organization of a produce company in which merchants of the town as well as the farmers are stockholders. These concerns provide every facility for the proper packing and storage of eggs and butter and other perishable produce, and sometimes include a butter renovating plant. Where such companies are operated the merchants refuse to handle produce, referring all who have such to sell to the produce company. The company pays the highest market price for what it buys. Instead of paying cash, due bills are issued which are accepted the same as cash at all the stores in town. Each week the merchants who receive these due bills in exchange for goods have them cashed at the office of the produce company.

By paying from a cent to two cents a dozen more for eggs or per pound for butter these produce companies have been wonderful factors in bringing trade to the place. Not alone do they benefit the town by bringing additional patronage to the merchants, but the business can be highly profitable if managed rightly. It requires but little capital to operate such an establishment. It is well when organization is taken up to limit the amount of stock that each shareholder receives to one or two shares of a par value of \$50 or \$100. An effort should be made to have as many merchants as possible shareholders. Also to secure as many shareholders among the farmers as can be had. It should be understood that instead of paying cash, farmers pay for their shares of stock in produce at prevailing market prices. With all the merchants in the town interested in the suc-

cess of the company, and the farmers throughout the country also shareholders and participants in profits that may be made, it will be soon found that the produce company will be handling all the produce business that originates in the community.

In many localities where this plan has been put in operation the farmers have discovered that they could receive better prices for their butter and cream and eggs than under the old system. Being associated in a way with the business interests of the place they become more interested in all affairs of the town and are more inclined to work in harmony with the merchants towards anything that has the improvement of the home town in view. One of the desirable things about this plan is its tendency to lessen the practice of residents of rural communities trading with mail order houses and department stores in the large cities. Another admirable feature is the adding of an additional labor-saving industry to the town and the keeping of the earnings of the people in circulation in the community.

WHERE THE MERCHANT FAILS.

An Iowa Farmer Tells Him He Should Advertise, and How.

An Iowa farmer contributes to the Des Moines Capitol the following very pertinent suggestion as to why the mail order houses succeed in getting the business of the rural communities away from local merchants:

"If the mail order houses got \$1,000 out of this county each month that belongs to the home merchants the fault is with the merchants themselves. The mail order houses advertise and give us prices on everything they offer for sale. They tell us what they have and what they want for it. Of course we get soaked once in awhile and if we do we can try some other house. Most of the home merchants who advertise at all don't quote prices. They neglect to tell us what we want to know—the price. Of course we can go to the store and ask the price of this article, and that, but you know how it is—one doesn't know so well exactly what he wants to buy when he gets in a store as when he is at home. And there is where the mail order houses make their hit. They send us their advertising matter into homes and we read it when we haven't anything else to do and every member of the family who reads their stuff usually finds something that he or some other member of the family wants and many orders are made up and sent out just at such times.

"Right here is where the home merchant falls down. If he talked up his business to us in our homes the same as the mail order houses do the people would be in to see him the next time they came to town and in many cases extra trips would be made to get the things at once that we didn't know we wanted until they were brought to our attention.

"The home merchant can save the expense of getting up a catalogue. We people read the home papers more carefully than we do the catalogue, and if the merchant wants to talk business with us let him put his talk in the home papers, and put it in so that we know he means business. The home merchant likely, nine times out of ten, sells his goods as cheap as the mail order houses, and I believe on many things they are much cheaper, but how are we to know if he doesn't tell us about it.

"A merchant must not think that even his best customers know his goods so well that they can tell what he has without being shown.

"It is none of my business how the home merchant runs his business, but I don't like to see these roasts in the papers all the time about us fellows who get a little stuff shipped in once in awhile and never anything said on the other side. There are always two sides of a question, and I have given you mine. If it is worth anything to you you can take it."

BANKERS GETTING WISE.

They See Danger in the Mail-Order System of Business.

It is only lately that bankers of the west have come to a realization that the mail-order system of business has been a serious injury to them, killing off the business of their towns, taking out of circulation money that should help swell the local bank deposits and otherwise interfering with town progress.

The trouble has been with many bankers that they failed to consider the buying-goods-away-from-home evil as anything of particular concern to them. When Farmer Smith would buy a draft for \$50 or \$100 to send to Chicago, the banker got his ten cents exchange and thought he was that much ahead, while the facts remained that if he could keep the money from being sent from home that \$50 of the farmer for the banker might make a dollar or two of profit.

It was only when the catalogue houses started in to solicit deposits of the people of country towns and farming communities that the bankers took a tumble.

Then again some bankers have such an exalted idea of their position in the town that the goods to be had from the local merchants are not good enough for themselves and families, and set a bad example before the people by sending away themselves for what they desire in the way of staples and luxuries. Bankers are conservative; and are not forward in making suggestions to their patrons as to what they should do with their money, but in this matter it appears sufficient influence to justify the exercise of what importance the banker can command in behalf of home patronage. It is the business of the town and surrounding country that affords a profit to the bank. The greater this volume of business can be made the better for the banker and every interest of the town, and the farmers and other laborers as well.

D. M. CARR.

CHIMPANZEE HAD MUCH FUN.

Escaped from French Circus for Brief Spell of Liberty.

A large chimpanzee performing at a fair in Montmartre, France, escaped recently, and created a panic in the district. The animal gives his performance under the direction of La Goulue, the Moulin Rouge dancer who took to lion taming and went through her marriage ceremony in a lion's den. Zizi, as he is called, escaped while his keeper's attention was momentarily attracted elsewhere, and made straight for the Metropolitan railway station at the Boulevard Barbos. Entering the booking office he nearly frightened the woman booking clerk out of her wits. He seized bundles of tickets, and amused himself by flinging them into the air and watching their descent in a shower. When he had thus made an end of several hundreds of packages he ran into the station, creating a panic among the waiting passengers. They fled across the line and down the

stairs into the street, and two policemen and six porters were summoned to try and capture Zizi. As soon as Zizi saw them coming he bolted down the line, and was so anxious to escape his pursuers that he did not notice an approaching train. The driver pulled up in time to avoid killing the animal, and Zizi capered off on another line, and stopped a second train in the same way. After much chasing and dodging Zizi was eventually caught in a sack, put into a strait waistcoat, and taken to the police station, where La Goulue appeared and balled him out early the next morning.

A Thirty-Foot Snake.

Callers at the Paris building this morning enjoyed the sight of a snake skin of mammoth proportions. It was that of a boa constrictor shot 40 miles north of Zamboanga by two American prospectors, Bell and Newman. The skin measures 29 feet, but Mr. Wickersham, who brought the skin to Manila, says when first killed the snake measured 30 feet 6 inches.

At the time it was shot the con-