

Stupid Thinking

"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." II Samuel 1:14-15

In a battle with the Philistines, Saul, wounded, fell on his sword, ending his life. A young man happened by, picked up Saul's crown and armlet, and brought them to David, boasting that he killed Saul. David rebuked him for touching the Lord's anointed and then slayed young man. As I meditated on this, I thought, "As a young man, that is probably what I would have done if I had been him."

Later, a similar incident takes place. "When they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him...and brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron. And they said to the king, 'Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life; the LORD has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul and on his offspring.' But David answered, 'As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity, when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and slew him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous man in his own house upon his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand, and destroy you from the earth?' And David commanded his young men, and they killed them, and cut off their hands and feet, and hanged them beside the pool at Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth, and buried it in the tomb of Abner at Hebron."

Again I thought, "Given the same set of circumstances, I probably would have joined them in killing Ish-bosheth." How precious is the doctrine of election that ensured that I did not end up like them. I am neither smart enough nor good enough to have avoided the mistakes they made. The difference between them and me is the grace of God. I am amazed and humbled at His goodness in my life.

¹ II Samuel 4:7-12