

Beautiful and Costly

Most of us want the beautiful part of life without paying the price. Please keep in mind that the price has already been paid for us. There is a cost to follow Christ and it comes with benefits – the price that Jesus paid on the cross was beautiful and very costly (**Luke 14: 26-27, Psalm 49:8, 1 Peter 1:18-19**). God is pleased when His people display patience in the midst of unjust sufferings. We, as Christians, are to be the redeeming force in this world, though we suffer (**1 Peter 2:20**).

We will be referencing the stories of David and Saul from 1 Samuel. In this Old Testament story, it would have been very easy for David to walk away, turn from God, not pay the price and not be able to live out the beautiful story God had for his life and the people of Israel.

1. **Always be ready to tell others where you are from and who you belong to (1 Samuel 17:55-58).** Saul was sizing up David and then Saul became jealous of David (**1 Samuel 18:5-9**).
2. **If you are looking to be offended, you will always find some sort of offense.** Saul could've celebrated David and all that he had accomplished, but he didn't. However, David was available to help Saul when he was tormented – he helped save Israel from the Philistine army. When we are no longer able to celebrate the success of others – we have a problem. When everything must revolve around us, and our feelings – we have a problem. Jealousy and pride will warp your view of life. Over time if you are not rooted in Christ, jealousy will turn into offense which will affect your heart. As we see with Saul, pride began to grow in his heart – instead of repenting – Saul's jealousy grew and turned into anger and offense (**1 Samuel 18:10-11, 14**).
3. **An attitude of worship can keep us safe during challenging situations.** Your outward circumstances can't determine your inward joy (**Psalms 95:6, John 4:23, 1 Samuel 2:2, Isaiah 12:5, Hebrews 13:15**)

Remember:

- You are a child of God who is called to guard your heart and refuse to walk in offense and worship Him in every situation.
- God is reminding you who you belong to: you are His child called to make a difference.
- Be patient on your journey – don't rush the process God has for you.
- Do not allow the circumstances of your life to drive your emotions and behavior.
- Keep a sweet spirit in the midst of challenges.

How do you stay healthy in the midst of a costly situation?