

Responding to the Jeers
1 Samuel 18:5-16

Nothing can threaten to stop us from doing good more effectively than to be _____ or rebuked, ridiculed or even just ignored by those for whom you _____ or by those with whom you _____.
1 Sam. 18:5-16 David demonstrates how we should respond.

Even though David served Saul faithfully and diligently, Saul imagined the _____ about David, disrespecting him and treating him at times with contempt, even trying to _____ him.

The story reminds us that much criticism comes, not from the failures of the _____ but from the flaws of the _____. “_____ people _____ people.” Critics should remember James 5:9: “Do not _____ against one another, brothers, so that you may not be _____; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.”

What David did, again and again, was to keep on doing the good things he believed God had given him to do, trusting that God was at work, _____. His purposes in David. He modeled for us what Paul, who was no stranger to criticism, wrote in Gal. 6:9 – “Let us not become _____ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not _____.”

Here’s the advice I think David would give us when we receive criticism or are disrespected in some way while doing our best to serve and live for the Lord. “The spirit of God’s people is not to win, but to take part. So, even in the face of the jeers of the crowd, _____.” In so doing, we not only imitate David, but we also imitate our Lord, Who when condemned for doing good, did not _____ or _____. He _____ to the One who judges justly.

Our confession: “I commit to Christ to build others up, not tear them down. Even when I face criticism, disrespect, and persecution, I will stand firm. I will let nothing move me. I will give myself fully to the work of the Lord, for I know that my labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (Adapted from 2 Cor. 10:8 & 1 Cor. 15:58.)