

A Tale of Two Men

Have you ever stopped to consider what it is that makes men differ? We know that the answer to that question is primarily found in the relation that each has with the Living God. The truth is, loved ones, that people aren't really as different from one another as they would like to believe. The real difference is in the discovery made to the soul of its Maker. Herein lies all of the difference between one and another. It is a difference that reveals itself at varied times and in varied ways. Yet, one of the most profound ways that it unveils itself is in the words we speak. These are of vital significance in revealing the true nature of the individual. However, we will consider not just words spoken but the last words spoken. What words could be more telling than these. Even in the world of lost souls there is a recognition of what is known as a 'dying declaration'. It is accepted that what one says on their death bed, at their end, is to be viewed as perhaps the most honest and true statement that a person will make.

Let us consider Saul and David. Two men with the same calling, in the same nation, during, for the most part, the same time frame. One following on the heels of the other. We find in 1Sam.31:4- Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. And again: 2Sam.23:1-4- Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. There is more but for our purpose we will stop here. Now, we don't know if our two men uttered some other words before leaving this world. What we do know is what the Word of God records or attributes to their last words. More precisely the last words of these men that are given to us by God for consideration.

Could two men in the same calling prove to be more different? Saul's last words are words of self-interest while David's last words are words of worship and reflection. The one man can only think of himself and how his end will be, while the other considers his God and the remarkable lessons that the Lord has taught him through his long life. Words reflect the heart; they tell all the world who we are. Lu.6:45- A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. What these men were in life is reflected in their last words in the record of God. All else has been stripped away. Neither man is referred to as king, just Saul and David the son of Jesse. What they were in life is found at their end in the words that they speak. Saul lived as a man of self, filled with his own concerns and interests and thus at the end his speech betrays him. David was a man after God's own heart and thus at the end God is on his lips.

Now, this can't be about Saul and David only. Surely this is about us as well. Every word we speak is a revelation to the world around us of our hearts and of our souls. What we say speaks to who we are. More to the point loved ones, have you ever considered that one day you will speak and those will be your last words. Many never consider such things and perhaps even fewer consider the implications of such things. What if I, as a child of the King, lived in the reality that my days are in His hands? The number of those days is known only to my God. What if I considered that fact that the next words that I speak may be my last and will leave an enduring impression in this world as to who I am and what truly matters to me? Then the words of the apostle take on new meaning. Col.4:6- Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. If we would be mindful of our last words, we then need to be mindful of our next words. Pray for God's grace in your speech and His instruction in your soul. Let all of your words glorify the God who has saved you and reveal to those in earshot all that He has taught you.