

## Following by Living in the Image of God

*Series on Following God's Schedule*

Dr. Goodluck Ofoegbu  
Prof. Oby Ofoegbu  
Banking Blessings Ministry  
San Antonio, Texas  
USA

### What We Will Learn

- God's purpose for human interactions
- David's approach to relationship with Saul
  - Principles based on "right and just"
  - Focus on individual responsibilities
  - Seek God's guidance
- Guiding principle for human interactions
  - Declaration of purpose at creation
  - Explanation of purpose for Abraham-Sarah
  - Sermon on the Mount

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### God's Purpose for Human Interactions

- Every person is God's ambassador to others
- God's purpose for people declared at creation and in interaction with Abraham
  - Creates every person as his representative
  - To convey his image and purpose
  - Among all creation
- Follow him by *Living in the Image of God*

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### David's Approach in Interactions with Saul

- Honored Saul as king of Israel  
[Humility in recognition of authority]
- Because of desire to be right and just  
[Hunger and thirst for righteousness]
- Motivated by desire to please God  
[Purity of purpose: pure in heart]
- 1 Samuel 24:1-15

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### Opportunities to Kill Saul

- David had opportunity to kill Saul on two occasions
- His followers urged him to take the strategic military advantage
- He instead used the opportunities to explain why he would not stretch his hand against the Lord's anointed king of Israel
- 1 Samuel 24 and 26 [selections]

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### 1 Samuel 24 (NIV)

6 He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord."

7 With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

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### 1 Samuel 26 (NIV)

8 Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice."

9 But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?"

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### Individual Responsibility

- David recognized his responsibility in his relationship with Saul
- Despite Saul seeking to kill him
- David committed to his individual responsibility in interactions with Saul
  - Honor Saul as king of Israel
  - Keep safe distance from Saul to avoid physical confrontation

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### Seeking God's Guidance

- Important in following his schedule
- David sought and received God's guidance
  - To attack Philistines in Keilah
  - To depart Keilah to escape from Saul
- God chooses a way to communicate his guidance to each person
- Examples from Peter's interactions with Cornelius

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### God's Declaration of Purpose for People

- Creates every person as his ambassador
  - Represent him
  - Convey his image and purpose
  - Among all creation
- Genesis 1:26 Declaration of purpose
- Genesis 1:27 Confirmation of purpose
- Genesis 1:28 Command of purpose

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### Genesis 1 (NIV)

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

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### Genesis 1 (NIV)

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

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## God Explains Purpose for Abraham-Sarah

- Declared why he chose Abraham-Sarah
  - Understands what is “right and just”
  - Lives according to what is “right and just”
  - Will raise offspring generations to live according to what is “right and just”
- So that God will fulfill his promise
- God’s purpose as guiding principle for all
- Genesis 18:18–19

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## Genesis 18 (NIV)

18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

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## Christ Explains Purpose through Sermon on the Mount

- God’s purpose for human interactions
- Eight principles of Living in the Image of God
- Numbers 1–3: human interactions with God
- Numbers 3–8: human-human interactions
- Examples on human interaction to illustrate *Living in the Image of God*
- Matthew 5–7 [Not read in session]

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## What We Learned

- Following God’s schedule
- By *Living in the Image of God*
- Examples from David’s approach to relationship with Saul
- Guiding principle for human interactions
  - Declaration of purpose at creation
  - Explanation of purpose for Abraham-Sarah
  - Sermon on the Mount

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