

## “Not I but Christ—Tales of Humility (4): A Tale of Two Sauls”

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### □ Saul #1

- ◆ Jim Collins: “Level 5 leaders are a study in duality: \_\_\_\_\_ (modest) and willful, \_\_\_\_\_ (humble) and fearless. To quickly grasp this concept, think of the United States President Abraham Lincoln (one of the few Level 5 presidents in United States history), who never let his ego get in the way of his primary ambition for the larger cause of an enduring great nation.” (*From Good to Great* 22)
- ◆ “If men desire to be honored by God, let them be \_\_\_\_\_. Those who carry forward God’s work should be distinguished from all others by their \_\_\_\_\_.” (1BC 1113)
- ◆ “Saul’s humility had forever taken flight, it seemed, and in its place there appeared a false zeal, a secret pride, and an abuse of authority that was to mature through the years till he took his own life. Like Judas, Saul ran well for a season. Had he died before calling Israel to Gilgal, he would have been regarded as worthy of the highest place in the kingly roll of honor. Now he had betrayed his sacred trust, yet was permitted to live on that all might see the fruitage of selfishness and perversity.” (2BC 516)

### □ Saul #2

- ◆ II Corinthians 12:1-10
  - “Lest I be exalted above measure”—i.e., to keep me \_\_\_\_\_.
  - “The life of the apostle Paul was a constant conflict with \_\_\_\_\_ . . . . His will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did God’s will, however crucifying to his nature.” (MH 452, 453)
  - Galatians 2:20
- ◆ Derek Kidner: “[The wording in Psalm 38] leave[s] no doubt that this sickness was a punishment. (It would be as wrong to think that this is never so, as that it is always so. Cf. Jn. 5:14 with Jn. 9:3.) Whether it was the natural outcome of the sin, as are the diseases of lust and excess, there is no sure way of telling. What is clear is that the illness opened David’s eyes to his spiritual plight . . . by humbling him.” (*Psalms* 1:154)
- ◆ Gregory Boyd: “It was Satan, not God, who originally gave Paul his thorn in the flesh. But even though Jesus uniformly expressed God’s will as being against sickness and disease, *in this case* Jesus saw that it was more beneficial to leave the infirmity in place. Indeed, Paul suggests that *in this case* Satan was specifically allowed to torment him for this very reason (2 Cor 12:7). It wasn’t God’s ideal to have Paul afflicted, but given Paul’s struggle with pride, allowing him to be afflicted was closer to God’s ideal than removing it.” (*Is God to Blame?* 136)

- ◆ Ellen White: "Through all my sickness the last eight months, I have had during my sleepless hours the most precious contemplations of the love of God to man, expressed in the wonderful sacrifice made to save him from ruin. . . . Looking upon the cross, at the humiliations and sufferings endured in bearing our sins, that His righteousness might be imputed to us, softens the heart and fills the soul with His love. . . . When pain has seemed to be almost unbearable, I have looked to Jesus and prayed most earnestly, and He has been beside me, and the darkness has passed away and all has seemed light. . . . *I believe now that my sickness in this strange country is a part of God's plan.*" (TMK 283)

*"When I am weak, then I am strong"*

modest, humble, humble, humility, humble, self