

Case Studies

This case study looks at the human problems of envy and the manipulation of others. It focuses on the character of the victim (the employee), but it is also valuable to think about the character of the perpetrator (the supervisor). Can we see ourselves in both people? Read the situation and discuss the questions.

Getting Ahead! A Case Study in Human Relations

The situation

You work for a major company and have been moving up the ranks. You are conscientious and really like your job.

But in the last few months your supervisor has become jealous of your success. He seems worried about his job security. He has begun to load you with busy work that hinders your effectiveness, and he takes every opportunity he can to criticize you to others.

Several fellow workers in your department know that the supervisor is treating you unfairly. They urge you to blow the whistle on him. At last the day comes. You are all together in a big company meeting. The chief executives are there. You know that your supervisor has not carried out several important tasks prior to the meeting. You expect that he will try to blame you for this, and you have more than enough evidence to make him look foolish, even jeopardize his career.

Questions

- 1 – What will you do at the company meeting? Will you “blow the whistle” or not?
- 2 – How will your conduct be guided by the fact that you are a Christadelphian and you want your fellow workers and supervisor to see the godly principles that govern your life?
- 3 – Should you have waited until “the day comes” to address this problem? If not, what could you have done sooner?
- 4 – What Bible principles apply?
- 5 – What Bible story does this remind you of?

If it does not come up, look at the parallel situation in David’s life and then discuss question 6.

A Parallel in Bible History - 1 Samuel 16-31

DAVID



Church Clip Art Mega Pack, Gospel Light, Ventura, CA

David's problem – 1000 B.C.

David

anointed, killed Goliath, 10,000's

Saul

afraid of losing the kingdom

jealous of David

battles (1 Sam.18:12-13);
dowry (1 Sam.18:25);
pursued (1 Sam.19:11), etc. }

criticism of David
(e.g., 1 Sam.22:7-8)

600 men (1 Sam.23:13)

his men (1 Sam.24:4);
Abishai (1 Sam.26:8) }

two opportunities (1 Sam.24:4; 1 Sam.26:8)

1 Sam.24:6 and 1 Sam.26:9-10

Your problem – Today

You

"moving up the ranks"

"your supervisor"

"his job security"

"jealous of your success"

"loads you with busy work"

"criticize you"

"Several fellow workers"

"They urge you to blow the whistle"

"the day comes"

Your decision = ?????

Question

6 – Would you handle the problem with your supervisor the way David handled his problem with King Saul? Why or why not? Would you do anything differently?