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The Aftermath of a Hardened Heart Leaders Step In and Step Up

1 Samuel 11:1–15 (HCSB)

Nahash the Ammonite came up and laid siege to Jabesh-gilead. All the men of Jabesh said to him, "Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you." ² Nahash the Ammonite replied, "I'll make one with you on this condition: that I gouge out everyone's right eye and humiliate all Israel." ³ "Don't do anything to us for seven days," the elders of Jabesh said to him, "and let us send messengers throughout the territory of Israel. If no one saves us, we will surrender to you." ⁴ When the messengers came to Gibeah, Saul's hometown, and told the terms to the people, all wept aloud. ⁵ Just then Saul was coming in from the field behind his oxen. "What's the matter with the people? Why are they weeping?" Saul inquired, and they repeated to him the words of the men from Jabesh. ⁶ When Saul heard these words, the Spirit of God suddenly took control of him, and his anger burned furiously. ⁷ He took a team of oxen, cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout the land of Israel by messengers who said, "This is what will be done to the ox of anyone who doesn't march behind Saul and Samuel." As a result, the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they went out united. ⁸ Saul counted them at Bezek. There were 300,000 Israelites and 30,000 men from Judah. ⁹ He told the messengers who had come, "Tell this to the men of Jabesh-gilead: 'Deliverance will be yours tomorrow by the time the sun is hot.'" So the messengers told the men of Jabesh, and they rejoiced. ¹⁰ Then the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Tomorrow we will come out, and you can do whatever you want to us." ¹¹ The next day Saul organized the troops into three divisions. During the morning watch, they invaded the Ammonite camp and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. There were survivors, but they were so scattered that no two of them were left together. ¹² Afterward, the people said to Samuel, "Who said that Saul should not reign over us? Give us those men so we can kill them!" ¹³ But Saul ordered, "No one will be executed this day, for today the Lord has provided deliverance in Israel." ¹⁴ Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let's go to Gilgal, so we can renew the kingship there." ¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there in the Lord's presence they made Saul king. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings in the Lord's presence, and Saul and all the men of Israel greatly rejoiced.

- 1. _____ SEEM OVERWHELMING WITHOUT VISION AND LEADERSHIP vv 1-3**
 - When there is no visible _____, the people fall prey to almost any challenge.
 - There is no shame in asking for help when facing difficult circumstances.
- 2. CLEAR PURPOSE, DEFINED VISION AND DECISIVE LEADERSHIP BRINGS _____ TO THE ORGANIZATION vv 4-7**
 - Early in the reign of Saul, he was Spirit-led.
 - Leaders take charge and move with _____ decisions to lead the people.
- 3. UNDERSTANDING THE PLAN BRINGS _____ TO THE EXECUTION OF THE PLAN vv 8-11**
 - King Saul counted the _____ of going to battle.
 - Leaders project confidence in the plan and are willing to lead out in accomplishing the plan.
 - It's not arrogance if you can deliver what you _____.
- 4. PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO FOLLOW A LEADER WHO DEMONSTRATES THE _____ TO LEAD vv 12-15**
 - Samuel reaffirms King Saul who now has led the people to _____.
 - The people are willing to follow leaders who prove they can lead.

The Next Step:

Leaders know when to step up; increase your leadership quotient by being decisive and ready to act.