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TOUCH NOT THE LORD'S ANOINTED

To whomever the Lord has anointed, we are to do no hurt or harm whether by physical actions or by negative words. The key is anointed. To be anointed means that the Holy Spirit is upon a person for a purpose that God has ordained. It might be a prophet, a priest, or a king.

In 1 Samuel 26:6-11 King Saul was asleep with his army. He was guarded by Abner as he slept. David and Abishai went undetected to the slumbering King Saul. Abishai offered to kill Saul where he slept. David forbade it. David said in verse 9, ***"...who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?"*** Then in verse 11 David further said, ***"The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed?"***

Saul had been anointed by the prophet Samuel at God's direction to be king over Israel. Saul even prophesied under that anointing. However, later Saul was disobedient and lost his anointing as we see in 1 Samuel 15:26 which says, ***"And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel."*** Again in 15:28 it says, ***"And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou."***

David, like Samuel, had loved Saul and did not want to see him die in spite of the fact that he was no longer God's anointed. Saul lost that anointing through rebellion.

In Jeremiah 29:24-32 we see that Shemaiah sent out letters to all Jerusalem and to the priests claiming that the LORD had made him the high priest replacing Jehoida, God's anointed high priest. Shemaiah also came against God's anointed prophet Jeremiah, claiming him to be no prophet at all.

Shemaiah had come against the LORD'S anointed ones both Jehoida and Jeremiah. What was God's response? In verse 32 he said that Shemaiah would never have a male born into his family line because of his rebellion against the LORD'S anointed.

When God has placed someone, anyone, in a position of authority, we should be careful not to come against them as Shemaiah did. It is an act of rebellion against God. That person may even have departed far from God's ways, but who are we to speak against them? God will bring correction in His own way and in His own time.

Our words carry life and death. If you think a leader is wrong, pray for them instead of speaking against them. Do them no harm by word or deed. Touch not the LORD'S anointed.