



1 Samuel 18 *Saul & David* Life of David Series

After David had finished talking with Saul. He met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David. From that day on Saul kept David with him and would not let him return home. And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, along with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike.

When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. This was their song:

"Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

This made Saul very angry. "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!" So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

The very next day a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand, and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice.

Saul was then afraid of David for the Lord was with David and had turned away from Saul. Finally, Saul sent him away and appointed him commander over 1,000 men, and David faithfully led his troops into battle.

David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the Lord was with him. When Saul recognized this, he became even more afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David because he was so successful at leading his troops in battle.

One day Saul said to David, "I am ready to give you my older daughter, Merab, as your wife. But first you must prove yourself to be a real warrior by fighting the Lord's battles." For Saul thought, "I'll send him out against the Philistines and let them kill him rather than doing it myself." -Who am I, and what is my family in Israel that I should be the king's son-in-law?" David exclaimed. My father's family is nothing!" But when the time came for Saul to give his daughter Mereb in marriage to David, he gave her instead to Adriel, a man from Meholah.

In the meantime, Saul's daughter Michal had fallen in love with David, and Saul was delighted when he heard about it. "Here's another chance to see him killed by the Philistines!" Saul said to himself. But to David he said, "Today you have a second chance to become my son-in-law!"

Then Saul told his men to say to David, "The king really likes you, and so do we. Why don't you accept the king's offer and become his son-in-law?"

When Saul's men said these things to David, he replied, "How can a poor man from a humble family afford the bride price for the daughter of a king?"

When Saul's men reported this back to the king he told them, "Tell David that all I want for the bride price is 100 Philistine foreskins! Vengeance on my enemies is all I really want." But what Saul had in mind was that David would be killed in the fight.

David was delighted to accept the offer. Before the time limit expired, he and his men went out and killed 200 Philistines. Then David fulfilled the king's requirement by presenting all their foreskins to him. So Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife.

When Saul realized that the LORD was with David and how much his daughter Michal loved him, Saul became even more afraid of him, and he remained David's enemy for the rest of his life.

Every time the commanders of the Philistines attacked, David was more successful against them than the rest of Saul's officers. So David's name became very famous.

I. Observations

- A. Jonathan's Pact:** It doesn't say why Jonathan loved David or what the solemn pact was. My thoughts are that Jonathan was not allowed to fight Goliath being next in line to be king or like the others were too frightened of losing to the giant and knowing in his death he would make all of Israel slaves to the Philistines. Jonathan had great faith and a relationship with the God of Israel. We see this in 1 Samuel 14. He is also wise, and I think he sees David as a young man of faith and loyal to God. Jonathan shows David kindness by making a solemn pact with him probably promising to care for David with everything he has, therefore giving him all he had.
- B. Saul's Anger:** First Saul got very angry and watched David with a jealous eye. Man's anger never brings about the righteous will of God. This verse says this tormenting spirit is from the Lord; David writes in Psalm 34:16a 'The Lord turns his face against those who do evil:' Anger brings his intelligence down; it sprouts jealousy; God allows then a tormenting evil spirit; this causes Saul to rave like a madman in his house.
1. The People's Song: Any king would not like to hear in a song about someone doing more than them. I think it is a very normal, natural response of King Saul to ask "What's this? They credited David with ten thousands and me only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!" From this time on King Saul watched David with a jealous eye.
 2. Responding Carnally or Spiritually: Whether something is normal and natural does not mean we have to succumb to it. We can take the higher road, by submitting our 'natural' self to our 'spiritual' self. Saul by this time has been living by his own understanding for quite a while at this point. It is much harder to live being directed by the Holy Spirit because you have to listen closely and obey what the Spirit would be guiding us to do—this is often very counter cultural to all around and ourselves as well.
 3. Our Jealousy: Is there someone in our lives that we keep a jealous eye on? Jealousy tells us our heart is bearing fruit of the sin of not being content and coveting. It lets us know our minds believe the lies that what God has given us is not good enough and that He is withholding good things from us. Do you recognize these lies? These are the same lies Eve believed before she ate from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. This did not go well for her. It is also the same sin Cain struggled with. God even reasoned with him telling him he could overcome the sin that was creeping at his door. Yet Cain succumbed to his anger and jealousy instead of humbling himself and giving them to God. It didn't go well with him either. Eve, Cain, & Saul all trusted in their own understanding and through their actions showed they thought they were wise in their own eyes. They did not acknowledge God in all their ways or turn away from evil. All that has been written has been written to teach us. Let us take heed. When we find ourselves struggling with jealousy let us be quick to acknowledge it, and give it to Yeshua so He can take it. We then will know He will make our path straight.
- C. David's Training:** David is still using his talents and being able to observe the King in his good moments and his low of low moments. He is a man in training; for what the responsibilities are like of being a king and training to know the man who we will find out later will pursue him for years.
- D. David Couldn't Leave:** Pastor Peder makes a good point here too. As it was David's assignment to play the harp for Saul, he didn't have the freedom to get up and leave any time he wanted to. He is a servant of the king; therefore he comes and goes as the king says. Therefore David had to keep his eyes open and be aware all the while as He worshipped the Lord in the presence of Saul.
1. Saul's Pride, David's Humility: Saul can see this truth yet he doesn't take the next step by humbling himself. David on the other side stays humble. He doesn't question God. We don't read, Why God are you allowing this crazy man to attack me? You anointed me as king already. When do I get to be king?
 2. David's Growing Responsibility: This is a huge responsibility. Not only is he responsible for his own life in battle but now he is in charge of 1,000 lives. Yet to be king you are responsible over every life in

your country. He graduated to the next level of training because of his faithfulness & humility in his first training. We see these godly traits follow him this next assignment.

3. God's Eye on the Righteous: Psalm 34:15 'The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help.' I realize that this is not the time that David wrote this Psalm. Yet how many times do we learn a lesson about God and it keeps being reaffirmed to us in many different ways and many different times in our lives?

E. Saul Fear of Losing the Kingdom: Saul is afraid of David taking his position and title of king & kingdom away from him. Yet God through Samuel has told him this is already a done deal. "Since you have rejected the Lord's command, He has rejected you as king of Israel." As Samuel turned to go, Saul tried to hold him back and tore the hem of his robe. And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is better than you. And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not a human that he should change his mind!"

1. David's Success: We also see all Israel and Judah love David because of his success at leading his troops in battle. It seems David remembers whose battle it is and he reveres and loves the Glory of Israel, God himself!

F. Father-in-law Saul: Saul has already promised his oldest daughter as a wife to the one whom killed the Philistine. The whole army knew it. He was told once and then asked 2 more times what was the reward for the man who killed the giant. Now Saul is requiring more. He is going back on his word. He is untrustworthy. We also see the seed of murder is in the heart of Saul toward David here.

1. David's Lack of Entitlement: David does not have the mind set of entitlement here. He doesn't say you already promised me your oldest daughter as a wife the moment I killed the giant. Instead, he understands the lack of wealth he and his family have compared to a king's wealth. He also understands his position as a commander in the army and that his family are mere shepherds. But these are little things compared to entering into the king's family which automatically comes with becoming royalty. Saul does not keep his word. He again proves himself not faithful to his word, which shows he is untrustworthy.
2. David is Lovable: David is good-looking, successful, liked by everyone, loved by her older brother, is humble and faithful, what isn't there to love?
3. Saul's Lack of Care for Others: Saul doesn't care about his daughter's heart. His heart is too calloused by anger and jealousy, although he is still able to hide his evil intents from all those around him. His words of excitement, from the outside, would seem to be caring about his daughter's happiness and David joining becoming family. Saul brings others into his ploy. He seems to not know or understand why David is not jumping at the chance to become his son-in-law.
4. David's Humility: David's humility is again seen here. His attitude is not I'm the one who killed the giant so the king should give me his daughter in marriage; I've already paid the bride price. Instead he sees his position as a commander of a 1000 in Saul's army for what it is as well as the position of his family. He really thinks such an honor is out of his reach.

G. Saul's Bride-Price: How sad that what God had placed as a personal and private physical sign for His people, Saul perverts. This order shows the irreverence for the ways of God. The Philistines are the enemy of God's chosen people therefore God's enemy.

1. Saul's Motivation: It seems that Saul wants vengeance but not on the enemy, the Philistines, but on David, and without a thought of how the death of David would impact Michal, his daughter.
2. David Goes for It: When David realized the bride-price was in his reach, he went for it. He doubled it in fact. I get a feeling that mentioning David killed them then fulfilled the king's requirement is significant yet I'm not sure what the significance is or why.
3. Saul kept his word! Maybe by bringing his men into getting David's response and not expecting David to live through the ordeal, he didn't feel he had a choice.

4. God's protection is on David. He is giving him success and he is becoming known in the whole land of Israel. This is a must for him to one day become king of Israel.

II. Application

- A. Two Character Studies:** We cannot study the life of David without looking at the life of Saul. The ways these two men revere God and the promises given to both of them are completely different.
- B. David's Relationship with God:** David has a relationship with God. It is because of this relationship David has had while tending sheep that God gives the order to Samuel to go anoint the son of Jesse as King of Israel.
- C. David's Humility:** David is a very humble man. I think this humility comes from being the youngest son and the harshness of not being accepted as one of the family. This quality is very necessary for a relationship with God.
- D. David is Content to Wait for God:** When David is given an opportunity he takes it. He killed the giant—better to risk one's life than to let a pagan defy the name of the living God of Israel. Knowing it is not his own strength he is going to fight, David specifically says it is The LORD'S battle. He doesn't declare he is now king over Israel. He is summoned by the king and goes and answers his questions. He is a faithful servant to the king in playing the harp or on the battlefield. He waits on God. The life he lives shows he trusts God's order and timing.
- E. David's Emotions:** Jessica makes a good point in that in this passage we don't see David's emotions. We are told about everyone else's though. The only time we are told how David is feeling in this passage is when it says David was delighted to accept the offer Saul gave him to make Michal his wife. Which was 100 Philistines foreskins the bride price to have Michal as his wife. David was a go getter. He doubled the amount that was required.
- F. The Fear of Man:** Saul feared David. Unfortunately Saul didn't seem to fear God. David feared God therefore he didn't fear any man.

III. Questions

- God shows David his faithfulness to him through his new found friend, Jonathan. Who is God giving you through His faithful kindness, friends that commit themselves to you? Are you giving Him the credit for it by giving Him thanks?
- Do you trust God's order and timing of things? Do you believe in all His ways He is good? This is not always easy. Wherever you are struggling with, tell him. He knows and He still wants to have that conversation with you. He is patient, so He is not in a hurry.
- Are you watching your words? Just because your words are true does not mean you have to or should say them.
- Are you harboring anger in your heart? What are you going to do about it?
- Do you keep your word? Do the words you say you will do actually happen?
- Do you have a gentle spirit? Are your thoughts and actions out of humility or out of entitlement and pride? This is not an all or nothing question. There can be many areas of our lives that we are acting in humility yet in one or two areas we think & act like we know better or we won't turn it over to God. If this is the case with you will you quickly confess this to Yeshua?
- Does your life reflect the relationship you have with the Almighty? Do you fear Him more than you fear man? Do you know His voice? Are you listening to Him and obeying what He says?