

The Life of David Facebook Live Bible Study

Lesson 3, November 6, 2019

David and Jonathan

Read 1 Samuel 18

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-16

The friendship of David and Jonathan is legendary. Right after he kills Goliath, God gives David this true friend, Jonathan. In spite of the fact that David now had God's Spirit on him, he still needed a friend. We all need friends. God created us to need each other. Friendships are a gift from God.

What does friendship mean to you? As women of God, what kind of commitment should we have to the friends God has put into our lives?

Proverbs 27:17: Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Friendships should make us better. Do you have friends who inspire you to do more and be more? Who encourage you and cheer you on? Are you that kind of friend to others?

David and Jonathan make a covenant; they were deeply committed to this friendship.

Proverbs 18:24 KJV: A man that hath friends must show himself friendly.

ESV: There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Friendships go through seasons. Sometimes you give more than you get; sometimes you get more than you give. Do you stick through the bad times?

David Becomes Famous.

David is catapulted into fame because he killed Goliath. David was successful wherever he went, and Saul made him a manager of the men of war. This was a big job for a young man.

His fame spread quickly and the people liked David. Often when someone so young experiences sudden fame, it ruins him. But David meets the challenge. He doesn't become arrogant. He's just doing what Saul tells him to do.

Another reason David was a man after God's own heart is that he always passed the praise people gave him onto the Lord. Think of praise as a test.

Proverbs 27:21: *The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise.*

What should we do when people praise us?

Verse 14 says that David had great success because the Lord was with him. Does that mean that we will be successful in everything we do if the Lord is with us? How do you explain the many examples of bad things happening to people who are walking with the Lord – whom the Lord is with? Why aren't they successful? And how do we define success?

Saul's Jealousy of David

The women liked David, and their song enraged Saul. He reacts like a little spoiled brat. He is the king, after all. Where was his self-confidence? Where was his maturity?

Once Saul saw that the people loved David more than him, he determined to get rid of him because Saul couldn't stand the competition. He tried to kill David by throwing his spear at him – twice! But twice David evaded him.

What does jealousy do to a person?

Proverbs 6:34: *For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge.*

Proverbs 27:4: *Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?*

Song of Solomon 8:6: *For love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave.*

Why was Saul so jealous? Because the Lord had rejected him. See 1 Samuel 15:26-29.

Saul brought on his own destruction by his jealousy, his power hungry heart, his disobedience to God. And eventually it took over his mind and drove him insane.

When he couldn't kill David with the spear, he demoted him. But David gives no indication of any bitterness in his heart. God gave him success in all his undertakings, which made Saul even more fearful and jealous.

Who can stand before jealousy? Ever dealt with someone who was very jealous of you? It can be deadly! Don't let one twig of jealousy take root in your own heart. It can drive you crazy!

Saul's sun is setting; David's sun is rising. And Saul knows it. Jealousy has so completely coiled itself around Saul's heart that it has squeezed all the love out. What has David done wrong? Nothing, just the opposite. He has tried to please King Saul in every way he can. But when jealousy takes over, who can stand against it?

Read 1 Samuel 18:17 – 30

Now we see Saul trying another way to get rid of David. He'll send him into battle to be killed by the Philistines. (What does that remind you of?)

After all David has done for Saul, what reaction might you expect from David when he gets demoted? Does he become bitter or vindictive?

Saul tries to use his own two daughters to trick David and get rid of him. Saul has to figure some way to get rid of him that doesn't look like he had anything to do with it. So, he offers Merab, his oldest daughter, in marriage.

Notice David's reluctance to marry Merab. Why?

Then, Saul marries her off to another man. This was a deliberate attempt to provoke David to do something rash. That could have provided Saul with a legitimate reason to kill him. When David did not explode with outrage, Saul gave Michal, another daughter, to David.

By doing this, he has an excuse to send him into battle again, by requiring that he kill 100 Philistines as a “bride-price.” He, of course, thought the Philistines would kill David.

But none of Saul’s plans work. Just the opposite. David kills 200 Philistines, not 100. And besides, Michal loved him. So, Saul was even more afraid of David, and from that time on, he becomes his open enemy.

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