



David and Jonathan – 1 Samuel 18
November 30, 2021

1 Samuel 18:1-16

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well.

When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. As they danced, they sang:

"Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had departed from Saul. So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him. When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

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.

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:

As iron sharpens iron, so one person 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. It was a very special tie, taken very seriously back then.

What makes a friendship work?

Proverbs 18:24:

KJV: A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

NIV: One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but 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. His fame spreads quickly and the people liked David.

Often when someone so young experiences sudden fame, it ruins him. But David meets the challenge. 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 for silver and the furnace for gold, but people are tested by their praise.

What should we do when people praise us?

First Samuel 18:14 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.

Once Saul saw that the people loved David more than him, from that time on he "kept a close eye on David."

What went through David's mind as he jumped out of the way of Saul's spears? What did the others who witnessed this think?

What does jealousy do to a person?

Proverbs 6:34:

For jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.

Proverbs 27:4:

Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?

Why was Saul so jealous?

1 Samuel 15:26-29:

But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!"

As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you. He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind."

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.

Who can stand before jealousy? Ever dealt with someone who was very jealous of you?

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.

1 Samuel 18:17-30

Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the LORD." For Saul said to himself, "I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!"

But David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my family or my clan in Israel, that I should become the king's son-in-law?" So when the time came for Merab, Saul's daughter, to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah.

Now Saul's daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased. "I will give her to him," he thought, "so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." So Saul said to David, "Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law."

Then Saul ordered his attendants: "Speak to David privately and say, 'Look, the king likes you, and his attendants all love you; now become his son-in-law.'"

They repeated these words to David. But David said, "Do you think it is a small matter to become the king's son-in-law? I'm only a poor man and little known."

When Saul's servants told him what David had said, Saul replied, "Say to David, 'The king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.'" Saul's plan was to have David fall by the hands of the Philistines.

When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king's son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed, David took his men with him and went out and killed two hundred Philistines

and brought back their foreskins. They counted out the full number to the king so that David might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.

When Saul realized that the LORD was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David, Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days.

The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with more success than the rest of Saul's officers, and his name became well known.

Now we see Saul trying another way to get rid of David. He'll send him into battle to be killed by the Philistines.

After all David has done for Saul, what reaction might you expect from David when he gets demoted?

Why is David reluctant to marry Merab?

When that didn't work, Saul decided to give Mical, another daughter, to David. By doing this, he would have 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. So, Saul was even more afraid of David, and from that time on, he becomes the open enemy of David.