

1 Samuel 18

The Envy of Saul

1. 18:1-4 – Friendship with Jonathan

- a. 1 - *"Jonathan loved him as his own soul"* – A Biblical definition of ultimate friendship.
 - i. The heart of David (after God's own) was like his own – cf 13:3, 14:6
- b. 2-3 - Saul kept him close. Jonathan closer. This covenant would endure past death.
- c. 4 - Gifts of royal robes, garments, and weapons were a great honor.
- d. David would replace Jonathan in succession as king, and Jonathan knew it.

2. 18:5-9 – Saul's Envy

- a. 5 - *"... and David behaved himself wisely"* as he went out; a theme (v14,15,30)
- b. *"Saul set him over the men of war..."* - and his popularity increased.
- c. 6-7 - David was better man than Saul (15:28), was accepted by all, highly praised.
- d. 8 - *"saying displeased him"* - because Saul desired the people's praise (David didn't)
 - i. Jealousy is discontent when you see someone else has what you deserve.
 - ii. Suspicion is the companion of jealousy ~ to imagine guilt w/o evidence.
 - iii. Envy is when jealousy is combined with grudge, hatred, malice, anger.
 - iv. Out of the wicked heart flows the things that defile - Jer 17:9-10, Matt 15:18
- e. *"what can he have more but the kingdom?"* - A true prophesy, but it was not yet time.
- f. 9 - *"eyed David"* with suspicion that turns quickly into envy - Prov 14:30, 27:4

3. 18:10-16 – Saul's Fear

- a. 10 - *"evil spirit... he prophesied"* – Under the influence of his envy and evil.
- b. 11 - *"Saul cast the javelin; for he said..."* – The evil pronouncements of an envious man.
- c. 12 - *"Saul was afraid of David"* – He feared b/c the LORD was w/him (comp. to Jon)
- d. *"the LORD was with him"* – is what God reveals to Saul in ch. 17, 18, 19.
- e. 13-15 - Saul demotes David, he continued in wisdom, Saul continues in fear/envy
- f. How does he walk wisely? Like Joseph; justly, mercifully, humbly Pr 13:10, Ps 101:2
- g. Fear - those who would harm and destroy for gain project those desires onto others.
- h. 16 - Saul's maneuvers endeared David more to the people. Saul's fear coming true.

4. 18:17-27 – Saul's Snare

- a. Saul like the rulers of Israel who conspired to kill Jesus by the Romans. Mark 14:1
- b. 17 - Saul plots David's death at the hands of the Philistines using daughters as bait.
- c. He lies twice: 1st - he promised to give his daughter (17:25), and 2nd ...
- d. *"fight the LORD's battles"* - using God's name in vain is a religious sin. Exo 20:7
- e. 18-19 - David's humility and wisdom in refusing. He lacked the vanity of Saul.
- f. 20-21 - What did not work with Merab would work Michal who loved him.
- g. 22-24 - *"I am a poor man"* – A gift paid in marriage to compensate for her value.
- h. 24-25 - Instead of dowry, fighting 100 uncircumcised Philistines would kill him.
- i. G. Williams – Usings Israel's token, Saul makes dead converts - cf. Rom 8:5-9
- j. 26-27 - David frustrates Saul's plot by killing 2x as many uncircumcised men.

5. 18:28-30 – David’s Enemy

- a. 28 - *“Saul saw and knew...”* – This would only establish Saul’s envy further.
- b. *“Michal ... loved him...”* and Jonathan, and the army, and the people, and the LORD
- c. 29 - *“David’s enemy continually”* - David was not, but Saul set himself against him.
- d. 30 - David’s name was established as being more wise than all Saul’s servants.