

1st Samuel Ch 18

Now Ch 18 begins where ch 17 ends (pretty profound huh?) But what I mean by that is that the events that were happening in ch 17, David's dealings with Goliath ("Golly" you recall his friends called him) and how David struck Goliath down and took off his head, all his friends shouting "Bye Golly!" that phrase that we still use to this day, and they took off. The children of Israel pursued the Philistines and secured a great victory and were greatly enriched due to the association that they had with David. And chapter 17 ends with David being called into the king's court (Saul wanted to find out a little more about this young man other than the fact that he played guitar and was a great worship leader, he was a great warrior as well) and victory came to all of Israel that day because of David.

And you recall that that true story is much more than a simple fact of history, but in reality it's an illustration of how Jesus Christ the Son of David, the Greater than David, went into the valley for you and me, and single handedly secured the victory, dealing a death blow to the wicked one, the roaring lion who walks the earth seeking whom he may devour. And because of that work accomplished on the cross, you and I have been greatly enriched, and we stand in the place of victory, not because of what we do, but because what He's done on our behalf. Defeating our enemy, of which we couldn't.

And so chapter 17 ends with David standing there before king Saul, with the head of Goliath in his hands as a trophy and a reminder of God's faithfulness, in making a way when there is no way, of making possible the impossible, and David is just sharing his story with Saul. Telling him who he is and where he's come from, no doubt being careful to give God all the glory, and all the credit for the wonderful work that He'd accomplished through him that day. And chapter 18 begins.

Vs1-3

So in keeping with our illustration, and practical application of this event, when Jonathan heard everything David had to say, and just listened to him regarding the testimony of God in his life, his soul was knit with David's and he loved him as his own soul. And what happened next was amazing.

Vs4

Jonathan, the crowned prince, the next in line to be the king (legally speaking) upon hearing David's testimony and the works that God had accomplished in his life, stripped himself of every royal right. Humbled himself before David, took his armor (his defense) his weaponry, his bow, even the belt that his sword hung upon and surrendered them to David, and he gave David his heart. And I'm not even going to entertain the notion of certain individual's in the homosexual community who seek to place blasphemous perversities on this scene. Refuse to see the pure and genuine work of the Holy Spirit in two people's lives knitting their hearts together in agape' love, giving them one heart and one mind.

This is the type of relationship that we desire to have with our brothers in Christ, ladies, with your sisters in Christ, just a pure and intimate bond. Prov 18:24 says, “*A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*” And that’s what’s happening here, just a genuine fusing of the hearts of 2 men that will prove to be a relationship that runs deeper than that of even their own families.

Jonathon took those things that gave him his identity, his security, that he would use to defend himself when the need arose, and gave them to David. Where am I going with this? How am I to respond, how are you to respond to the great works that God has done on our behalf in the person of Jesus Christ? The victory that He has given you, the riches of true life that he has availed to you; take off your precious robe of self-security. Let down your armor of defense and your offensive weaponry of warfare that you use to defend yourself when confronted, give these things over to Him, humble yourself before Jesus Christ And give to Him your heart, allow your soul to be knit together with Him so that you love Him as your own soul even as He loves you as *His* own.

Jonathon could’ve gotten nervous about the whole deal, “Ah, Oh, competition” after all, he was next to be the king, the people loved him, he was known for his ventures of faith, and great victories in the Lord, but he didn’t. He humbled himself before this man whom God was using in a mighty way and submitted himself to Him. I believe that Jonathon knowing that the kingdom had been taken from Saul, that upon hearing David speak, the Holy Spirit spoke to Jonathon’s heart and said, he’s the one, there’s the next king. And Jonathon didn’t get bitter, he wasn’t intimidated, didn’t try to prevent anyone else from taking the thrown, but he laid down his life for his friend, submitted himself to the will of God, and gave his heart and his allegiance to David.

Now when Saul heard all these things he decided that David wasn’t going to be simply a shepherd boy anymore (though he never lost his shepherd heart). But he was going to stay in the palace and minister to/for Saul, he drafted him. But in vs 3 we notice (read).

Vs3

And what was it that knit their hearts together? Verse 1 tells us that it happened after David had finished speaking, having heard David’s heart, and of his faith in the living God, Jonathan realized that David’s heart was just like his. These two guys had a lot in common, they were both bold, men of great faith, men of action, but primarily they both loved God and everybody knew it. Remember Jonathon was the man who woke up one morning and said to his armor bearer, “I’m sick of being beat down by these Philistines, it’s no big deal for God to save with many or with few, so what do you say we go up there and just see if God wants to deliver our enemies into our hands today?” and They overcame overwhelming odds by their faith in the Living God, and so to with David concerning Goliath, and as David just shared his heart, something special happened between him and Jonathon and they made a covenant, that is they “cut” covenant.

There was a “new” covenant (if you will) that was being ratified, you see in that day when 2 parties agreed on something that they were incredibly serious about they would take a heifer, or a bull and cut the animal in two, a “body would be broken” and “blood would be spilled”. And they would pass through the 2 halves of the body more or less basing their agreement upon the body that was “broken” and the “blood that was shed” signifying that they were both deadly serious about this agreement and should either party break it, may they be “dead meat”. This was the highest order that could be made regarding a covenant; this was the type of covenant that God made with Ab in Gen 15 when God passed between the various animals that Ab had cut in two. And so here David and Jonathon are making this type of a covenant, this is a very serious commitment that they’re making one to the other. (Vs4)

So in essence Jonathon, in realizing the works and words of David, what God has done even for him in and through this man, dethrones himself, lets down his guard, esteems David and makes himself vulnerable and yielded to David.

What an awesome picture of what should be happening continually in your life, and in my life regarding the Son of David, Jesus Christ Who in the new covenant allowed *His* body to be broken, *His* blood to be spilled, that we might meet Him there, where (even at the Lord’s table) the elements of communion signifying this covenant that’s been made between God and man in the person of Jesus Christ Where we do well to dethrone ourselves, let down our guard, esteem Jesus Christ humbling ourselves and making ourselves vulnerable, and yielded to Him. Now we’ll see that in contrast to Jonathon being willing to step down from the throne, Saul does everything he can to stay upon the throne, to hold on to that position whereby he’s “in control” and it’s going to take him down, cause him nothing but grief, trouble and problems. And so what happens? The council of God’s word debases Saul, he goes down in *infamy*, and Jonathon is exalted, and highly esteemed in God’s Word because he lived his life *humbly*.

Now also on a practical level, as an act of benevolence and friendship David was a poor shepherd boy, he didn’t have anything, and yet Jonathon was the son of a king, and so Jonathon gives David some new clothes, his own armor, just lavishes his friend, and wants nothing in return. And there are those who like to see Jonathon as a type of Christ here who takes we who are poor spiritually, and have nothing to offer Him in return, and yet he just lavishes us with His kindness, wraps us up in His royal robe of righteousness, and places upon us the armor of God, the belt of truth and the sword of the Spirit. And I think that’s fine too, just an overall neat and special thing that’s happening here.

And you remember that David didn’t take Saul’s armor when it was offered to him, but here we find he receives Jonathon’s armor, why? Because Saul’s armor didn’t fit, physically, or more importantly spiritually, they were way to different, so as to where he rejected Saul’s armor, here he’s accepted Jonathon’s armor. David Guzik makes this comment, “David couldn’t receive Saul’s armor. It didn’t fit him physically, but more importantly it didn’t fit him spiritually. He and Saul lived for, and were trusting in, different things. But David could receive Jonathan’s armor, not only because they were more similar in size.

More importantly, they shared the same **soul**. They both loved God, and lived more Him and for others more than themselves.”

Vs5

Now there’s something about these words “behaved wisely” that caught my eye, David used wisdom in his dealings with Saul and those in authority over him. Didn’t try to undermine him in anyway, didn’t speak ill of him, did what he was told when he was told, just really walking circumspectly and the Lord really honored it.

And Saul set him over the men of war, and notice, “he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.” God was just really raising David up before the people, his victories are gaining him acceptance and credence in the people’s sight, they’re seeing God move in his life, and they’re beginning to get behind him and trust him. And I’m sure that at first Saul was digging the fact that the people liked him, because it means they approved of Saul’s decision in putting him on staff, and over the people, but soon enough it becomes too much for Saul’s pride.

Vs6-9

So here they are returning from war, and as was the custom they were met with a parade of sorts and all the ladies had made up a chorus and perhaps on one side of the street the ladies would sing out, “Saul has slain his thousands.” and Saul thought, “Hey, that’s pretty cool.” But then on the other side of the street the ladies would answer back, “And David his ten thousands.” and Suddenly Saul was all, “Hey, that’s totally uncool!” and He got irate, and even though this praise didn’t affect David at all, it tore Saul up, and he thought, “David’s got the praise of all the people, what’s next, is he going to take my kingdom?” Now 1st of all it wasn’t Saul’s kingdom, God had told him that as far as He was concerned he was no longer the king, and so Saul was already paranoid as to where and how and when he was going to lose the throne. And he probably had his suspicions regarding David being that man, which may be why he said this, but in reality he couldn’t have been more wrong regarding the motive of David’s heart. David was just serving the king.

And he was content doing it, but Saul suddenly regretted placing David in the public limelight, because now he felt that his security was being jeopardized by David. The NIV reads Prov 27:21 like this, “*The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives.*”

In other words a lot can be determined regarding the position of a persons heart by the way he reacts to the praise that he gets from people. Warren Wiersbe said this, “Just as the crucible and furnace test the metal and prepare it for use, so praise tests and prepares people for what God has planned for them. How we respond to praise reveals what we’re made of and whether or not we’re ready to take on the new responsibilities. If praise humbles us, then God can use us, but if praise puffs us up, we’re not yet ready for a promotion.”

So David passes the test, doesn't get puffed up by people's praise, and we'll take note of that again later in this ch, but Saul reveals the pride of his heart by taking offense at the praise of another over himself. None of us deserve to be praised, so what does it matter if someone else is recognized for what God is doing in their life, and you or I seem overshadowed? It's so easy to get jealous and envious, yet the bible tells us "*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*" Gal 5:19-21

God help us to guard our hearts from envy, from jealousy, and selfish ambition, what a contrast between Saul, and Jonathon. One has said, "Envy is the pain we feel with in when somebody achieves or receives what we think belongs to us." When Saul seen the people's reaction to David he said, "What more can he have but the kingdom?" Just the opposite of John the Baptists reaction when he heard of the success of Jesus ministry saying, "*He must increase, but I must decrease.*" John 3:30 Envy easily leads to anger, and anger is the 1st step towards murder, and so it's no wonder what happens next.

Vs10

Now wait a minute, we see Saul prophesying here, and the spirit that's upon him is allowed by God, but not the Spirit "of" God, this is a demonic spirit. What's going on here? Could it be that people can prophesy apart from the Spirit of God, you bet, that why we read in 1 John 4:1 "*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*" 1 John 4:1 So just because someone makes spiritual utterance, that doesn't qualify them as sent from God, test what they say upon against what God has revealed in His Word, and if it doesn't line up with God's Word in context, then throw it out. Even if they've prophesied in the Holy Spirit previously as did Saul, each utterance needs to be weighed up against the Word of God.

But I want you to notice something here and that's this, in David's hand was an instrument of worship, and it Saul's hand was an instrument of warfare, and that is hugely significant. One is on his way up; the other is spiraling down out of control. And so as David's playing his guitar and singing praise, Saul has a spear rather than a scepter in his hand, and is muttering under his breath and getting increasingly angry with David, and I would imagine that David is a bit nervous and watching Saul real carefully.

Vs11

Question: What's in your hand tonight? Seriously, think about it for a minute, in instrument of worship, or an instrument of warfare, because in reality the answer to that question will determine for you whether or not you're on your way up, or on your way down. What David manned was and instrument of healing, and help for the troubled soul. What Saul held was meant to hurt and destroy lives.

So do you have *worship* or *war* in your hand tonight, *healing* or *hurting*? You see both David and Saul are leaders, they both are in positions of influence and authority, but one is on his way down, and fast, Saul. And the other is on his way up, David. And this is important because we can always tell if we're on the way up, or on the way down and what determines that is what's in your hand. If you're on your way down, you're hurling spears, when you're on your way home from that service, or that meeting, or that gathering, or wherever it maybe, a dinner. And you're talking to your wife or your husband, and you're just --- hurling spears at that person. Or maybe you're speaking to another lady friend (gals) or another fella, (guys) about some decision that's been made, and maybe you're familiar with it, maybe you're not. Maybe you have all the facts, odds are you don't, but what's coming out of your mouth is spear after spear, just cutting at that person, placing their character on the line, questioning their integrity, and you're doing damage rather than good, tearing down rather than building up, and bringing about hurt as opposed to healing. And sure you justify it because, "Hey, I have a legitimate point" Yeah, right on the tip of your spear that you just threw, and that testifies that you're on the way down.

A person who is diminishing in the ministry, "losing the anointing" if you'll allow me that term, one who is on the way down, is a person who is throwing spears. And maybe they've been a king, as is Saul, but he's throwing spears, but watch this, David was on the way up what did he do about it? Nothing, he was younger than Saul, stronger than Saul, had victory after victory under his belt, had defeated Goliath, he was more popular than Saul, and could've easily picked that spear up and pinned Saul to his throne, and it would've been justifiable self-defense. But he didn't, he avoided the situation, and let the spears fall to the ground, as a matter of fact he continued to be faithful in his service to the king, until he had to go (which we'll see next week).

But let me exhort you, having considered this myself, if you've been throwing spears, cease. "But this needs to be said." and A spear goes out, "People need to see this" another spear is launched, and to the degree you do that, you're on the way down, I tell you the truth. Learn this lesson from David; he ducked sure, steered clear of the arsenal, but he didn't throw them back. Now those spears kept his head low, kept him humble, so God would use them, but God doesn't ordain throwing spears at one another, David knew that God was his shield and his defense, so he just let those weapons lie and removed himself from the situation.

Vs12-13

Hoping he would be killed in war.

Vs14-16

He was fighting battles for them, was on their level, and represented them in his doings.

Vs17

Notice the revelation of his heart, he had deceitful motives. Now you recall that Saul had promised his daughter to whoever killed Goliath, so he seeks here to make it good, or at least it appears that way. But down deep Saul was simply hoping that instead of him killing David (which wouldn't look good in the polls) he'd let the Philistines do it, and then he'd be clear and his agenda would be accomplished either way.

Vs18-21

You see even in his kindness he was baiting the hook for David, now whether this spoke somewhat of her character (which is very possible as we'll see in later studies), or he was in reference to the dowry he'll require I don't know. But the bottom line is that he's still vehemently trying to do David in.

Vs22-23

This is David's assessment of himself, he doesn't think highly of himself; he's not worthy to be a son in law to the king, even after the accusations and attempts on his life. In vs 5 we read where all the people, even the king's servants accepted him. In vs 7 his praise is on all the lips of the ladies, in vs 16 all Israel and Judah loved David, but how does David see himself, did he believe all his press clippings, no way. He knew who he was, He knew who God was, and he kept it real, he said, "I'm just a poor man, lightly esteemed" I'm no big shot, I'm not royalty, I'm just a poor man with a few friends. And he's saying even if I wanted to marry your daughter, and be apart of your family, there's no way I could afford the dowry of a king.

Vs 24-30

This is the 3rd time we've seen mention of the wisdom that David used, and he's gone from "lightly esteemed" to "highly esteemed", and I'm just telling you there's something that God honors concerning exercising wisdom and using wisdom, that is the wisdom of God's Word in your everyday situations. God will raise a man who utilizes the precepts of His Word. Prov 12:8

Says, "*A man will be commended according to his wisdom.*" We read in Ps 119:98-100 where David said, "*You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.*"

And to the one who is faithful with the small things, God will entrust more and more, and such is the story of David's life.