

1 Samuel 18 – David, Love Him Or Hate Him

September 4, 2022

David became an important man in Israel.

As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. 1 Samuel 18:1–5 (ESV)

Jonathan and David became best friends.

As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 1 Samuel 18:1 (ESV)

*Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain...
Genesis 4:1 (ESV)*

*If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.
Leviticus 20:13 (ESV)*

Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 1 Samuel 18:3 (ESV)

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24 (ESV)

And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. 1 Samuel 18:4 (ESV)

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

*Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."
1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV)*

Saul promoted David.

And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house.
1 Samuel 18:2 (ESV)

"When Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he attached him to himself" 1 Samuel 14:52b

And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war... 1 Samuel 18:5 (ESV)

David was loved by the people.

...And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. 1 Samuel 18:5 (ESV)

Saul was jealous of David.

As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." 1 Samuel 18:6–7 (ESV)

And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" 1 Samuel 18:8 (ESV)

And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you."
1 Samuel 15:28 (ESV)

And Saul eyed David from that day on. 1 Samuel 18:9 (ESV)

The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand.
1 Samuel 18:10 (ESV)

Saul tried to kill David.

And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice. 1 Samuel 18:11 (ESV)

Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul.
1 Samuel 18:12 (ESV)

Saul put David in the military, hoping he would die in the line of duty.

So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. And David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him. And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them. 1 Samuel 18:13–16 (ESV)

Saul gave David risky military missions hoping he would die in the line of duty.

Then Saul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the LORD's battles."... 1 Samuel 18:17 (ESV)

...For Saul thought, "Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him." 1 Samuel 18:17 (ESV)

And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" 1 Samuel 18:18 (ESV)

But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife. 1 Samuel 18:19 (ESV)

Saul gave David ultra-high-risk missions hoping he would die in the line of duty.

Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David... 1 Samuel 18:20 (ESV)

...And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 1 Samuel 18:20 (ESV)

Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." ... 1 Samuel 18:21 (ESV)

...Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall now be my son-in-law." 1 Samuel 18:21 (ESV)

And Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in private and say, 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king's son-in-law.' " 1 Samuel 18:22 (ESV)

And Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David said, "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?" 1 Samuel 18:23 (ESV)

And the servants of Saul told him, "Thus and so did David speak." Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.' "... 1 Samuel 18:24-25 (ESV)

...Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 1 Samuel 18:25 (ESV)

And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law... 1 Samuel 18:26 (ESV)

...Before the time had expired, David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines... 1 Samuel 18:26–27 (ESV)

...And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife. 1 Samuel 18:27 (ESV)

But when Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him, Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually. Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed. 1 Samuel 18:28–30 (ESV)

Applications

1. Jonathan and Saul are a contrast. How will we relate to an individual or church that God chooses to raise up and use in a way that is great than us? Will we celebrate what God is doing like Jonathan, even if it means we are made less, or will we undermine what God is doing like Saul and find ourselves trapped in jealousy and fighting against God?
2. David and Saul are a contrast between someone who loves the Lord and God is with them compared to someone who has left the Lord, and God is fighting against them. David's life was not easy, but the Lord watched over him through his troubles, even giving him a close godly friend. Saul's life was filled with envy, bitterness, loneliness, suspicions, and broken relationships. Saul even found himself doing what he never thought he could have done by attempting murder.
3. If we find ourselves in the position of Saul, repentance, forgiveness, and restoration are always offered when we come to God, no matter what we have done. The story of Manasseh in 1 Chronicles 33 is an example.

Life Group Questions

1. Of the three applications at the end of the sermon, which one is most important to you?
2. Are there times when children should rightly take a stand against their adult parents like Jonathan did when he chose loyalty to David over his father?
3. Why do we need close godly friends? What should we look for in friends? What should we avoid? What are the benefits and dangers of friendship through social media?
4. Since Jesus is the perfect friend, what can we learn about friendship from him?
5. God protected David from numerous plans to destroy his life. Has God protected your life from the destructive plans of others? It is said Christians are immortal until God says their work is done. How does that thought encourage you when you face life's difficulties and dangers?
6. What did you learn about envy from this chapter? What should we do when we experience those feelings?