

# David

## The Life of David—part 3

1 Samuel 18-20

February 10, 2019

### **DAY 1: David's relationship with Jonathan; Saul's jealousy of David**

1. Jonathan was King's Saul oldest son. It would have been assumed that when Saul died, Jonathan would become king. It would have been assumed because that's how neighboring countries acted. But with David's sudden rise to popularity and national hero, the situation could have become quite "muddled." David and Jonathan could see that just such a situation could brew.

*1 Samuel 18:1 After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. <sup>2</sup> From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. <sup>3</sup> And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. <sup>4</sup> 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.*

2. What actions and attitudes fueled Jonathan and David's devoted friendship? How could these attitudes and actions protect them from a future insecurity, rivalry, and possible civil war?

3. Because the hand of God was uniquely on David, success followed David wherever he went!

*1 Samuel 18:5 Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well. <sup>6</sup> 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 tambourines and lutes. <sup>7</sup> As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."*

4. The success of someone else is a test for humans. We can rejoice with them (Romans 12:15), and praise God, or we can sulk, mope, and let envy and jealousy eat us up.

*1 Samuel 18:8 Saul was very angry; this refrain **galled** him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. **What more can he get but the kingdom?**" <sup>9</sup> And from that time on Saul kept **a jealous eye** on David. <sup>10</sup> The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand <sup>11</sup> and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.*

5. Is jealousy alive in your heart? Ask yourself, what is it that someone else has or enjoys that I believe I **need** in order to be satisfied? (There's nothing wrong with **desiring** good things).

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## **DAY 2: Saul takes matters into his own hands. God thwarts him every time**

*1 Samuel 18:12 Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had left Saul. <sup>13</sup> So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. <sup>14</sup> In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him. <sup>15</sup> When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. <sup>16</sup> But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.*

1. King Saul's spear attack on David failed. So Saul goes to Plan B. Put David in a position where he is likely to be killed in battle. What did Saul do? (v. 13)

2. What was the result of Saul's Plan B? (vv. 14-16)

3. King Saul begins a series of alternate plans to do away with David.

*1 Samuel 18:20 Now Saul's daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased. <sup>21</sup> "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."*

*1 Samuel 18:25 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.*

4. What possible results did King Saul envision?

*1 Samuel 18:30 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.*

5. Every day we are tempted to "take matters into our own hands." We assume (a) our knowledge is complete (we have all the facts) (b) our perspective is accurate (how things "seem" to us "seem" best), (c) we know better than God. (John 7:24)

6. When we live this way we "invite" God to act in our lives like he did with King Saul. God can thwart our plans at every step.

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

**DAY 3: "...be wise as serpents, harmless as doves."**

1. The bible doesn't just reveal God's character to us. The bible also reveals human nature to us.

*1 Samuel 19:1 Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David<sup>2</sup> and warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there. <sup>3</sup>I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I'll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out."*

2. What is Jonathan assuming about his father, King Saul, particularly about Saul's nature?

*1 Samuel 19:4 Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. <sup>5</sup>He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The LORD won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?"*

3. What is the basis of Jonathan's appeal? What does he assume *should* happen as a result of his appeal?

*1 Samuel 19:6 Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death."*

4. How did Saul respond to Jonathan's appeal?

*1 Samuel 19:7 So Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.*

5. What assumptions are Jonathan and David making about this situation? About Saul?

*1 Samuel 19:8 Once more war broke out, and David went out and fought the Philistines. He struck them with such force that they fled before him. <sup>9</sup>But an evil spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the harp, <sup>10</sup>Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape.*

6. What strikes you about this story?

7. What strikes you about human nature?

## DAY 4: David flees for his life

1. After King Saul threw a spear again, David finally realizes he must flee. He flees to his own home.

2. But David discovers he would not be safe in his own home!

*1 Samuel 19:11 Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed."<sup>12</sup> So Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped.*

3. What was King Saul's next plan?

4. How did God thwart Saul's plan?

5. Michal buys David some time, to put distance between himself and Saul's guards.

*1 Samuel 19:13 Then Michal took an idol and laid it on the bed, covering it with a garment and putting some goats' hair at the head.<sup>14</sup> When Saul sent the men to capture David, Michal said, "He is ill."*

6. The guards go back to report to King Saul.

*1 Samuel 19:15 Then Saul sent the men back to see David and told them, "Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him."<sup>16</sup> But when the men entered, there was the idol in the bed, and at the head was some goats' hair.*

7. The guards return again to Saul, empty-handed. Saul confronts his daughter.

*1 Samuel 19:17 Saul said to Michal, "Why did you deceive me like this and send my enemy away so that he escaped?" Michal told him, "He said to me, 'Let me get away. Why should I kill you?'"*

8. What do you find ironic about Saul's confrontation?

*1 Samuel 19:18 When David had fled and made his escape, he went to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went to Naioth and stayed there.*

9. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## **DAY 5: Jonathan and David: reality finally sets in**

*1 Samuel 20:1 Then David fled from Natioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to take my life?"<sup>2</sup> "Never!" Jonathan replied. "You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without confiding in me. Why would he hide this from me? It's not so!"*

*1 Samuel 20:3 But David took an oath and said, "Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.' Yet as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."*

*<sup>4</sup> Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you."*

*<sup>5</sup> So David said, "Look, tomorrow is the New Moon festival, and I am supposed to dine with the king; but let me go and hide in the field until the evening of the day after tomorrow.*

*<sup>6</sup> If your father misses me at all, tell him, 'David earnestly asked my permission to hurry to Bethlehem, his hometown, because an annual sacrifice is being made there for his whole clan.'*

*<sup>7</sup> If he says, 'Very well,' then your servant is safe. But if he loses his temper, you can be sure that he is determined to harm me.*

*<sup>8</sup> As for you, show kindness to your servant, for you have brought him into a covenant with you before the LORD. If I am guilty, then kill me yourself! Why hand me over to your father?"*

*<sup>9</sup> "Never!" Jonathan said. "If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn't I tell you?"<sup>10</sup> David asked, "Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?"*

1. They hatch a plan to discover Saul's truest intentions, and then how to communicate that back to David.
2. The truth of Saul's intention and determination is finally realized by both Jonathan and David. They recommit to their covenant of loyalty to each other.
3. David becomes a fugitive.
4. What have you seen about God in this week's stories?

5. What have you come to realize about human nature?

6. How has the life of David challenged you this week?