

After God's Own Heart: The Life of David

Lesson 3: Life in the Palace

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried.” – G.K. Chesterton

Instant Celebrity

- While David did not become king immediately after defeating Goliath, he did achieve fame instantaneously. What would be the temptations of gaining fame at such a young age, with no experience at living life in the public eye?
- In 18:5, we find out that Saul set David over the men of war, and it was pleasing to everyone, even Saul's servants. Remember, David had recently been one of Saul's servants, and they were still happy for him. Also, it is impressive that David is set over the men of war; from all we know of scripture, David had never put on armor or fought in a battle.
- Similar to the account of Joseph in Genesis 39:2, 5, 21-23, God made David prosper. Just like in his battle with Goliath, David seems to have understood that he was not the source of all these incredible blessings, but God was.

David and Jonathan

- Jonathan had every right to be upset with David's success, since he represented a rival for power. Many scholars point to Jonathan giving David his armor in 8:4 as a sign that Jonathan was giving his right as heir to the throne over to David. It was an incredible display of honor.
- David and Jonathan's friendship was soon viewed by a paranoid Saul as conspiratorial.
- In chapter 19, Jonathan disobeys a direct command from his father the king, refusing to kill David and helping him hide and achieve safety.
- In Jonathan's case, his friendship involved sacrificing any political ambition he might have had. What are some other sacrifices true friendship requires for us?

David and Saul

- The song of the women in 18:7 infuriated Saul. They were praising Saul for slaying his thousands and David his ten thousands. The Hebrew word for “angry” in verse 8 indicates a “burning” anger.
- Remember, Saul also knew Samuel's prophecy that another king would be appointed. His jealousy likely stemmed from fear of that replacement.
- What are some things that make us jealous? Why are we tempted to be jealous of someone?

- Saul's jealousy causes him to become irrational, twice throwing spears at David in an attempt to kill him (18:10-12). Just as with Goliath, God protected David. It was clear to Saul that God was no longer with him but was favoring David.
- What kind of irrational behavior can jealousy cause in our lives?
- Saul promotes David in verse 13, but Saul has a purpose behind this promotion. He plans to send David out into battle and ask him to conquer 100 Philistines in order to win Michal's hand in marriage, hoping David would be killed. A king sent someone into battle hoping he would be killed; who does that remind us of in the Old Testament?