

A Man like David

1 Samuel 18:1-16

November 22, 2009

Intro

As we come to 1 Samuel chapter 18, the story continues immediately after David killed the Philistine giant, Goliath. David's victory over Goliath is an amazing story of the power of having complete faith in God. David stood out among all the men of Israel, even Saul, and at one point in his speech when he was rebuking Goliath; he made it clear that it was the Lord who would deliver him into David's hands. "So that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel," and then I can imagine him turning to the men of Israel as he continued, "and so that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands."

David is clearly arising in Israel. God was searching for a man to replace Saul as king of Israel. Saul was a man after the people's heart, but David was a man after God's heart.

In chapter 18, we see Saul and his son Jonathan reacting very differently to David. Both Jonathan and Saul could have become very threatened by David because the anointing of the Holy Spirit was clearly upon him. Saul would have been threatened because he desperately tried to hold on to the kingdom which God was taking from him. Jonathan could have felt threatened because he would have been the heir apparent to Saul.

But what we see in these three men, David, Jonathan, and Saul become powerful lessons for our own spiritual life today. God wants us to become spiritually victorious and this story is an opportunity for us to receive the insight and wisdom to help make us become the men and women God desires, if only we will be willing to receive God's Word with a teachable heart.

I. Find a Kindred Spirit

- 1 Saul asked the head of his army, Abner, whose son David was. Abner didn't know, so David was brought in front of Saul, still carrying the head of the Philistine.
- 2 Saul asked him, "Whose son are you, young man?" David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."
- 3 While David was talking with Saul, Jonathan was watching. Here standing before him was a man of amazing faith and incredible humility; and David's heart for God had been clearly seen by every man in the army of Israel.
- 4 And so Jonathan's heart was knit together with David's.

A. Choose friends with godly character

- 5 The relationship between Jonathan and David becomes very famous in the scriptures. In fact, I am convinced that Jonathan and David are referred to in the Proverbs.

Proverbs 18:24, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

- 6 What Jonathan saw in David was a man whom he admired because he wanted more of those same qualities in himself.
- 7 David was a man who not only had great faith; he was willing to put that faith into action. They had kindred spirits because Jonathan also put his faith into action.

Illus – Jonathan took a great venture of faith when he was willing to attack the Philistine garrison with only his armor bearer at his side saying, “God is not restrained to save by few or by many.”

- 8 Jonathan admired David’s faith and wanted to be knit together with him so that his own faith would be stronger.
- 9 David had great humility. There is a lot of misunderstanding about what humility is. Many people think that humility is thinking little of themselves, but that’s not humility at all, that’s frustrated self-centeredness.

Illus- *The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority.*

Rather, he may be in his spiritual life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson; but he has stopped being fooled about himself. He has accepted God’s estimate of his own life. He knows he is as weak and helpless as God has declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time that he is, in the sight of God, more important than angels. ... He knows well that the world will never see him as God sees him and he has stopped caring.

-- A. W. Tozer in *The Pursuit of God*.

- 10 True humility was seen in David when he recognized that it was God who was the strength of his life. He thought more of the needs of others than of himself, and was willing to trust God for it.
- 11 There is a great example here in the friendship between Jonathan and David. If we choose bad company, it could literally destroy our lives. But if we choose godly friends, our faith and our heart will be strengthened.

1 Corinthians 15:33, Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

Proverbs 22:24-25, Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself.

- 1 What we need to do is to knit ourselves together with the son of David who

desires an intimate relationship with us.

John 15:15, “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

B. Love gives itself away

- 1 Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. That is a powerful statement of the depth of Jonathan’s love.
- 2 Jonathan’s response was seen in verse four. Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David. Jonathan was the son of the king of Israel and so his robe would have been distinct to indicate his stature.
- 3 So when Jonathan gave David his robe, he was signifying that he would make David higher than himself; that he would even serve David as king.
- 4 Love builds up, love edifies, and love gives away.

1 Corinthians 8:1, We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

- 5 There is no greater example of love than what God did for us through the son of David, Jesus Christ when he gave himself up for us all.
- 6 The Apostle Paul’s words to the Ephesians describe this powerfully.

Ephesians 3:14-19 ... that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

- 1 God made a covenant of love with us as well which was initiated in the blood which Christ poured out for us.

II. Difficulties are Required

- 1 The next part of the story of David has to do with how Saul responds to him. David is clearly on the rise in Israel. David is favored in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants and in everything he does, he prospers.
- 2 And there we have the problem; Saul became very jealous of David.
- 3 There are great lessons of character in this section of scripture that apply to all of us.

A. The refining pot is for silver

- 1 We don't refine mud, we refine silver. The Lord will refine our heart and he will use difficulties to do it. That is the only way to make a man or woman of God.

Proverbs 17:3, The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests hearts.

- 2 After David came from the victory over the Philistine, Goliath, he became instantly famous in Israel. Saul set him over the men of war and in everything he did, he prospered.
- 3 It even got to the point where the women would come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, but when they started singing they sang, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands."
- 4 When Saul heard this he became very angry and felt very threatened by David.
- 5 But this is part of the refining process that God is using in David's life to build him into a great man who would lead Israel as its greatest king.
- 6 God has a way of keeping us humble because it's part of the refining process.

Illus – A church had two services on Sunday morning and the first service was amazing and powerfully anointed, and the pastor couldn't wait to repeat it at the second service...

Another pastor was leading a procession to the cemetery after a service and got lost in thought...

- 7 Here again we see David's heart in trusting God. His successes were bringing great trouble to him because of Saul's bitterness, but he didn't ask those women to sing that song. He knew that wasn't the way it was at all. These weren't David's victories, they were God's victories and David knew it.

Illus – There were other songs that David would much rather have had them sing.

Exodus 15:1, Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and said, "I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; the horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.

Psalms 126:2, Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with joyful shouting; then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them. The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad."

- 8 The Lord brought David's great victories, what then was David's part? He trusted that God was able and then put that faith into action.

B. Don't throw it back

- 9 At one point Saul became raving mad with jealousy against David and while David was playing the harp as usual, Saul took up a spear and hurled it at David trying to pin him to the wall. This happened twice.
- 10 What's important to see in the story is that David didn't throw it back. At this point he is well-known in Israel as a mighty warrior and could easily have done it, but he refuses to.
- 11 Never trust a jealous person with a spear in their hand; or a cell phone, or a Facebook page.
- 12 Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul.
- 13 You don't solve this with the spear, you solve it with repentance.
- 14 But David was trusting that God would take care of Saul in his own way.

Psalm 37:1-8 Do not fret because of evildoers.

- 15 Which direction are you headed?
- 16 David had a harp in his hand and Saul had a spear in his hand. That in itself is instructive.
- 17 A harp is for edifying; that's what it did to Saul's soul. A spear for destroying.
- 18 If you're on the way down, you're throwing spears.
- 19 If you're on the way up, your building and edifying others as David did with the harp.