

## Message #44

## I Samuel 18:17-30

There is a Christian businessman I know who years ago was being greatly used by God in his company in Chicago. Several men and women had come to faith in Jesus Christ as a result of his faithful witness. He started an early morning prayer meeting to pray for the welfare of the company and at least three men attended that. This man prospered and so did the company. In that company was a high-ranked, godless, powerful man who rejected God and Christianity. He hated this Christian businessman and, as the year neared its conclusion, he called the Christian into his office to tell him the financial goals for the next year. When this man heard his goals, they were astronomical and far above reason. This evil man informed the Christian that if those goals were not met, the company would be forced to let him go. That was a very real intimidation. My friend committed the whole thing to God and just went about his business the next year. When the year ended, he had doubled the expectation and won a national, corporate contest that sent him and his wife to the Bahamas. Because of his success, other companies wanted him and as a result, he left and today is a corporate president of a company in Phoenix. The power-crazed, evil boss was eventually fired and in the end, his whole plan backfired.

That is exactly what happened to Saul. Saul was a fickle, irrational, emotional, diabolical King. God was no longer with him; God was with David. But God did not just instantly drop Saul dead and have David become King. God permitted Saul to make bizarre decisions against David, and then in every instance, He would overrule Saul and bless David.

This was something David needed to see and so do we. What we learn is this:

**EVEN WHEN THE MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE ARE PLOTTING AGAINST YOU, ONE WHO IS FAITHFUL TO GOD WILL BE PROTECTED AND PROMOTED BY GOD AND THEIR PLOTS AND PLANS WILL BACKFIRE AND GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANTS WILL SUCCEED.**

We need to understand this text. We may find that there are those who hate us simply because we are right with God. Job discovered that. His so-called friends were jealous of him and said hurtful things and hateful things about him and to him, when he had done nothing wrong.

That is exactly what happened to David. David was a faithful and loyal servant of God and Saul, but he was under attack. Quite honestly Saul wanted David dead and he will do everything possible to make that happen. Yet, he cannot and will not succeed. God will overrule him and everything Saul does will backfire. That point is clear from these verses.

This is a very interesting passage. From David's perspective, he feels honored by all that is happening; but from Saul's perspective, this is all a plot to destroy David. God is sovereign over every bit of this and in the end, David wins.

There are seven narrative parts to this passage:

**NARRATIVE PART #1** – Saul offers his daughter to David for marriage. **18:17**

This verse gives us a great look at the character of Saul. It shows just how fickle and manipulative he is.

He offers his daughter Merab to David to be his wife. Now Saul was a handsome man and we may assume his children were good-looking children. His daughters were probably very lovely.

But he prefaces his offer to David with “only be a valiant man for me and fight the Lord’s battles.” The battles to which he is referring would be battles against the Philistines. Saul wanted David to go out and fight more battles with the Philistines.

Notice Saul calls them “the LORD’S battles.” Saul isn’t right with God; he is demonic. Demonic people talk about God and the Lord. Demonic people weave things about God into the conversation.

Now the reason he wants David to go out and fight more battles is because he thinks this will get him killed and he won’t have to be the one who kills him.

There are three observations we want to make here:

**Observation #1** - David had already earned the right to marry Saul’s daughter without doing anything else.

Saul had promised that anyone who dropped Goliath could marry his daughter (I Sam. 17:25). David could have said, I am not fighting any more battles to marry your daughter, you already owe me that.

There is a lesson to see here. **People out of touch with the Holy Spirit say things and then don’t follow through with what they promise.** These are people who promise something and then change their minds.

**Observation #2** - Saul thinks by sending David into battle, he will get killed.

He is so jealous and hateful of David that he wants him dead and he figures the Philistines will do his dirty work. They won’t be able to do it.

**Observation #3** - God is looking out for David every step of the way.

Diabolical plots and plans will not ever succeed against faithful people of God. They will not ever succeed because God is sovereignly protecting and shielding those faithful to Him.

**NARRATIVE PART #2** – David responds to Saul’s first offer of marriage to his daughter.  
**18:18**

David was an innocent, naïve teenager when it came to dirty politics. He didn’t know how diabolical politicians can be. I think we have seen as never before that politics is a dirty business. It is a swamp. David found himself right in the midst of the swamp.

David was truly humbled by the fact that he was offered the king’s daughter. He could not believe out of all the people in Israel that he would be singled out to be the King’s son-in-law. He had no idea of the real motive of Saul.

David probably felt that Saul was sorry about throwing spears at David and was offering some form of olive branch by offering him his daughter in marriage. David was young and naïve and was humbled by this.

It is a wonderful thing to know that even when people are plotting against you, God is protecting you. Enemies may want you dead, but God will protect His faithful people and they will not succeed. God is our refuge and strength every day.

**NARRATIVE PART #3** – Saul offers another daughter to David for marriage. **18:19-22**

David should have been given Merab, but Saul went back on his word and gave her to Adriel. We don’t know much about Adriel except he was from Meholah. We do know that Merab and Adriel had five sons who were all hanged by the Gibeonites (II Sam. 21:8-9). Had she married David, that would not have happened.

This was certainly a slap in the face of David. This would have been an emotional setback for David. It is as if the rug has been pulled out from under you on what had been promised to you.

According to **verses 20-21**, Saul learned that his daughter Michal loved David. She wanted to marry David. She really didn’t know him, but she certainly knew that he was a good-looking, public hero.

Now Saul’s goal in giving Michal to David is to trap him. He wanted to get the Philistines to destroy David, but he sent his servants to tell David that the King delighted in him and loved him and he wanted him to marry his daughter.

Saul is a demonic, manipulative liar. You cannot trust anything about him.

**NARRATIVE PART #4** – David responds to Saul’s second offer of marriage. **18:23**

David was a humble, honest man. He was thankful for everything he had. He apparently wasn’t mad about not getting Merab, but was flattered and humbled by the fact that he was offered Michal.

Notice how David sees himself. He sees himself as a poor man who should not have these esteemed privileges. This is the kind of heart God loves to see. David is not strutting around thinking he is high and mighty. He is just a lowly, humble servant of God.

Now typically a dowry was paid to the bride's family to marry the daughter. Since David was poor, he knew he could not pay some dowry.

**NARRATIVE PART #5** – Saul devises a dowry payment designed to kill David. **18:24-25**

According to Saul, David was playing right into his hands. He came up with a dowry of 100 foreskins of the Philistines. His thinking was David will end up being killed by the Philistines, trying to get these 100 foreskins. It would appear from **verse 26** that Saul put some time restriction on this offer.

Now what kind of deranged person would devise a dowry payment of 100 Philistine foreskins? What kind of insane nut would even come up with this kind of thing? A demonic Saul.

In other words, the engagement would only last for so long and then it would be taken off the table.

In other words, David had only had a short time to do this.

**NARRATIVE PART #6** – David fulfills the dowry payment Saul demanded. **18:26-27a**

Well this assignment was no problem for David. He was not troubled by any of this. Why? Because God was with David. He was happy as a lark. Instead of him being intimidated, he saw this as a great opportunity.

David immediately headed out and he not only killed 100, but 200 Philistines, which was double what Saul wanted. Just picture this. David goes in and gives Saul 200 Philistine genitals so he can marry his daughter. As one commentator said, it would have been something to see Saul's face at this point.

Saul initially thought this assignment would kill David, but it will exalt him.

**NARRATIVE PART #7** – David experiences amazing victory and results. **18:27b-30**

There are seven amazing results for David:

**Result #1** - Saul gave David his daughter Michal to be his wife. **18:27b**

Saul's thinking is I cannot destroy David with my spear and the Philistines can't destroy David in war, perhaps I can destroy him with a woman.

**Result #2** - Saul knew God was with David. **18:28a**

This is something Saul knows and so does everyone else.

**Result #3** - Saul knew his own daughter loved David. **18:28b**

David is starting to take over his family. Jonathan loves David (18:3); all Israel and Judah loves David (18:16) and now Michal, Saul's daughter, loves David.

**Result #4** - Saul is afraid of David. **18:29a**

Saul was becoming more and more afraid of David every day because he realized this guy is invincible.

**Result #5** - Saul is a continual enemy of David. **18:29b**

Saul was never David's friend. He was continually David's enemy. Saul was David's enemy for the rest of his life. Why? Because he was right with God and Saul wasn't.

**Result #6** - David got involved in more warfare which demonstrated his wisdom. **18:30a**

David was proving himself in warfare to be a very wise man of God. He was no buffoon.

**Result #7** - David's name kept increasing. **18:30b**

God was raising up the name of David. He was becoming very well known. David was becoming known as a highly esteemed man of God.

God was sovereignly overruling everything Saul was doing and turning it for good in the life of David. Saul's whole plan is backfiring.

There is a key point to see here. There may be those who behind the scenes are out to do you harm. They may be jealous. They may be envious. They may be delusional and hateful. You may not even know or suspect what they are doing.

Here is the point to know. They will not succeed. No matter what they plan or what they do, they will not succeed. God is in the business of overruling and reversing things so that His faithful people come out on top.

In Psalm 1, we read that a blessed man is one who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, but one who delights in the word of God. The promise to that one is this: "And in whatever he does, he prospers."

That was the story of David's life and may it be our story, too.