

Theme: David experienced God's favor and protection as Saul descended into madness and tried to kill him.

I. Intro - Dr. John M. Perkins - Civil Rights

- A. Leader of Voice of Calvary ministries in Mississippi
- B. 2/7/70 - led civil rights March; van of students arrested
- C. He & 2 other pastors went to give bail; brutally beaten by 12 Highway patrolmen
- D. Taken into jail; sheriff, 5 deputies, 12 patrolmen beat them - "You are not in Simpson County now; you are in Brandon"
- E. Beaten, stabbed with a fork, stomped, beaten - some thought he was dead
- F. He came out with a love for the whites that had beaten him - their own racism was destroying them! He now had a specific call to preach the Gospel to whites as well as blacks
- G. This only further strengthened the work of God in the civil rights movement
- H. Today we will see a similar time in David's life

II. Under the Favor of God

- A. God was with David to bless Him
Saul was afraid of David, **because the Lord was with David** but had left Saul. 1 Samuel 18:12
 - 1. Central idea in this section - God was with David
 - 2. This explains David's great success
 - 3. This explains Saul's jealousy and fear
 - 4. David is God's anointed, under God's favor

B. David is blessed with great success

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

- 1. The Lord is with David - v12, v14 - the basis
- 2. David was successful at everything he did (v14)
- 3. Saul fears David but can not deny his success (v15)
- 4. The people love David because he leads them (v16)
- 5. All a sign of God's supernatural blessing on David

C. Even Saul's family loves David!

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself... ³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ 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... ²⁰ Now Saul's daughter Michal was in love with David.... 1 Samuel 18:1, 3–4, 20

- 1. Jonathan loves David
 - a. Jonathan - the heir - loves David as himself
 - b. Jonathan makes a covenant with David
 - c. Jonathan gives his royal clothes, weapons to David
 - d. All of this is a sign that David is to be king!

2. Michal - Saul's daughter - loves David
3. All of this is a sign of God's favor on David

III. Under the Murderous Wrath of Saul the Mad King

A. Saul is jealous of David's blessing and success

⁶ 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. ⁷ As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

1. Women dance and sing for Saul, but credit David
2. They actually gave Saul credit, when none was due
3. Saul had done nothing to bring the victory

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?" ⁹ And from that time on Saul kept a **jealous** eye on David. 1 Samuel 18:6–9

1. Saul had done nothing to bring the victory
2. But Saul becomes jealous and angry
3. Saul would rather destroy the one who saved him than share his glory or admit his own need - are we any different?

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David, because the Lord was with David but had left Saul... ¹⁵ When Saul saw how successful he was, he was **afraid** of him. 1 Samuel 18:8–9, 12, 15

1. Saul is filled with jealousy, anger, and fear
2. Jealousy is a cancer that knows no bounds, eating away joy and reason, producing anger, fear, envy and hatred.

B. Saul's descent into murderous madness

1. Saul tries to kill David himself

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 ¹¹ and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. 1 Samuel 18:10–11

- a. Saul's jealousy opens him to evil spirit's influence
- b. Saul is prophesying - but evil is in his heart
- c. Saul hurls his spear at David to kill him
- d. He does this not once - but twice!
- e. Despite his outward worship and piety, Saul's jealous heart is now filled with murderous wrath against God's anointed. He is fully engaged in the Game of Thrones against God.

2. Saul hopes the Philistines will kill David

Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and **fight the battles of the Lord.**" For Saul said to himself, "**I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!**" 1 Samuel 18:17

- a. Saul wants David dead - but won't touch him himself

- b. He even uses pious language - 'the Lord's battles'
 - c. But he wants the Philistines - his greatest earthly enemy - to kill David, the one who saved him.
 - d. When one plays the Game of Thrones, reason is lost, madness ensues, and we will even help our enemies rather than submit to God's will.
3. Saul uses his own daughter to try to get David killed
- ²⁰ Now Saul's daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased. ²¹ "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." 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.** 1 Samuel 18:20–21, 25
- a. Saul wants his daughter to marry David - as a trap!
 - b. He thinks of her only as a snare to trap David
 - c. Saul's love for Michal evaporates in the face of his jealousy & hatred of David. Those playing the Game of Thrones will use anyone to get their way.
4. Saul tries to get others around him to kill David
- Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. 1 Samuel 19:1
- a. Saul now actively asks others to kill David
 - b. This shows the escalating nature of the sin that grips Saul's heart - he will directly involve others in his sin.
 - c. When Jonathan protests this, Saul even takes an oath to not kill David (19:6) - but he then tries to kill him again with a spear (19:10)
 - d. Saul sends men to house to kill him (19:11-16)

- e. Because he is full of jealousy and playing the Game of Thrones, Saul now looks more like a mafia boss than an anointed king of God's people.

IV. Under the Sovereign Protection of God

- A. God sovereignly protects David through all of this
1. He protects David from Saul spears
 2. He gives David success and protection in battle with the Philistines
 3. He gives David faithful friends in Jonathan and Michal
 4. He gives David favor in the eyes of the people so that Saul is afraid to directly kill him
 5. God sovereignly protects His anointed one from every scheme and attack of those who wish his death
- B. God protects David and Samuel from Saul's attacks
- Word came to Saul: "David is in Naioth at Ramah"; ²⁰so he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, **the Spirit of God came upon Saul's men and they also prophesied.** ²¹ **Saul was told about it, and he sent more men, and they prophesied too. Saul sent men a third time, and they also prophesied.** 1 Samuel 19:19–21
1. God overrules Saul's desires to kill David
 2. Men sent to kill David are overcome by the Spirit and prophesy
 3. This happens not once or twice - but three times

4. One would think Saul would get the message and withdraw from the Game of Thrones - but he will not cease his fight with David - and Yahweh!

So Saul went to Naioth at Ramah. **But the Spirit of God came even upon him, and he walked along prophesying until he came to Naioth. ²⁴ He stripped off his robes and also prophesied in Samuel's presence.** He lay that way all that day and night. 1 Sam 19:23–24

1. God overrules Saul's desires to kill David again
2. Saul himself is overcome by the Spirit and prophesies
3. Saul takes off his royal robes before Samuel and David - like he should have in the first place!
4. Despite the hatred of Saul and others, David is safe and secure, because God is sovereign over all things. David will not be harmed or die before his time.

V. Applying the Word of Our Sovereign

- A. Do I understand divine blessing and human hatred?
 1. David was under the blessing of God
 2. David was being faithful to God and His call
 3. It is precisely blessing and faithfulness that produced Saul's jealousy, anger and hatred
 4. Do I understand that these often go hand in hand?
 5. Am I surprised when faithfulness to God brings ridicule, slander, and conflict with the world?

B. Am I trusting in the sovereignty of God?

1. Do I know that God is Sovereign over all things?
2. Do I believe that not a hair of my head can be harmed apart from His will?
3. Do I find myself jealous and angry of God's blessings on others?
4. Do I cry out to God in my distress - or complain, connive, and look to others to deliver me?

C. The Table of the King

1. 1 Peter 5:6-10 - humbly submit, call to God
Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 Pet. 5:6–10
2. Come to the King's Table ; submit; receive grace

In the Hall of the Mad King

1 Samuel 18-19 (18:6-16)

May 1, 2016

Communion

Genesis 12:2-3

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; blessing; anger; faith; humility; sovereignty of God

“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Gen. 12:2–3

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