



JONATHAN AND SAUL RESPONDING TO DAVID

1 Samuel 18

October 7, 2018



Episode 1: An Unlikely Friend (1-5)

- How might Jonathan have been tempted to wrongly respond to David?
- Jonathan:
 - A man of courageous faith – 1 Sam 14
 - Highly regarded by the other soldiers
 - Faithfully keeps his covenant with David
- Jonathan's response to David
 - David and Jonathans' souls were “knit” together.
 - Loved David “as himself”
 - Mark 12:30-31, Lev 19:18
 - Formed a covenant with David
 - Gave his robe to David
 - Gave David his armour and weapons
- Result – vs. 5

Episode 2: A Jealous Suspicion (6-9)

- Victory parade to honor King Saul and his soldiers
- Song - *Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands*
 - Celebrating Saul and his new Champion, David.
 - Intended to celebrate the victory and the significance of David's hand in it
 - Saul takes great offense.
- Conclusion - suspicion
 - Saul surmised that David must be the man to replace him

Episode 3: A Murderous Outburst (10-11)

- Saul “raved” in his house
 - Catalyst – an evil spirit from God
 - Note: God is never the cause of anyone’s sin
 - This evil spirit was a consequence of Saul’s ongoing rebellion against God
 - “raved”
 - same word translated as “prophesied”
 - Has to do with Saul’s speech
- Result
 - Saul tried to kill David by throwing his spear at him
 - Twice

Episode 4: A Growing Paranoia (12-16)

- Saul was afraid of David - Why?
 - Saul understood that the Lord was working in and through David
 - And the Lord had left Saul
- Saul's response (13)
 - Gives David a new responsibility that removes him from Saul's presense
- However David just continued to prosper (14)
 - How? The Lord was with him!
- Saul's paranoia grows (15)
 - He "dreaded" David
 - Lit: "dreaded his face" – didn't even want to look at him

Episode 5: A Duplicitous Proposal (17-19)

- Saul decided to try a different tactic
 - Let the Philistines do the dirty work!
- The enticement
 - Promotion
 - His oldest daughter – Merab
- David's response (18)
 - David turned down the proposal citing his social status
 - Possibly a concern because he couldn't have paid the customary bride-price

Episode 6: An Intended Snare (20-27)

- Marriage Proposal #2
 - Saul's youngest daughter Michal
 - Hope – Michal would be “a snare” to David
- David initially rejected the 2nd offer again citing social status and money
 - Saul offered an alternative – 100 Philistine foreskins
 - Saul knew that this would make David a target
- David's response
 - Doubled the alternative bride-price
 - Married Michal

Epilogue: A Settled Enemy (28-30)

- Nothing Saul tried worked
- The conclusion
 - Saul became David's continual enemy
 - David continued to prosper due to God's presence with him

Lessons

- Learn to be legitimately thankful for the gifts that God places in other believers even when those gifts outshine our own.
- A significant lesson that begins to develop in this story is that even though God has plans and purposes for His people, He brings them about in His own time.

Discussion Questions

1. Consider how we see 1 Co 13:4–7 embodied and illustrated by Jonathan. Identify the characteristics of love from this passage in the life of Jonathan and explain how he demonstrated them.
2. How are the opposite of these characteristics of love shown the life of Saul?
3. Saul was among other things often motivated by fear. 1 John 4:18 points out that there is no fear in love and that perfect love casts out fear. How is fear an opposite to love?
4. Are there areas in your life in which you appear to be more like Saul than Jonathan? What can you do practically to change this?