



1 SAMUEL

David Marries Saul's Daughter

1 Samuel 18:17-30

Icebreaker

What was it like to meet the future in-laws for the first time? Did things change after the wedding?

Context

In the first half of chapter 18, we learn that Jonathan, the eldest son of Saul and theoretically the next king of Israel, is a devoted friend of David. Their bond of friendship is such that Jonathan symbolically gives David the kingship by giving him his royal robe and military weapons. This is contrasted with Saul's two attempts to skewer David with a spear.

In today's lesson, we see the murderous plots of Saul against David. These plots continue to show a descent in Saul's character and reveal definitively that God's hand is removed from Saul and is now upon David. By the end of the passage, the youngest daughter of Saul loves David, which, seemingly, leaves Saul the only person in Israel who doesn't love David.

Discuss

1. Read verse 17. **What do we learn about Saul's character in this verse? Which do you think is worse: using your daughter as a pawn to further your own ambitions or using faith to manipulate others for your own ambitions? Why did you pick that one?**

Application: **Parents, what are some reasons that we as Christians must avoid using faith as a tool to manipulate our children's behavior?**

2. Read verse 18. **What do we learn about David's character in this verse?**

Application: **As parents, what can we do to help develop that kind of humility in our own children?** [Or, what can we do to develop humility in our own life?]



3. In 17:25 we are told Saul will give his daughter in marriage to the person who defeats Goliath, then in 18:17 David is offered Merab's hand in marriage, but in verse 19 Merab is married to someone else. **Do you think Saul really wanted David to be his son-in-law? Why or why not?**
4. Read verses 20-21. **Do you think Saul's actions in these verses is worse than what we see in verse 17? Why or why not?**
5. For the Jewish readers of these verses, they would notice the word translated "snare" is used, which is found in Exodus 23:33; 34:12; and Deuteronomy 7:16 to describe the dangers of idolatry. **How might Michal be a "snare" to David?**

Application: **How can relationships with the wrong people become a snare to us?** (See Proverbs 22:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:33)

6. Read verses 22-27. **Why did David reject Saul's second offer to marry Michal?** (see verse 23)
7. A "bride price" is a marriage present presented by the prospective husband (or his father) for the financial security of the prospective bride (or sometimes for compensation to her family for the loss of contribution to the family). The bride price could vary depending on the economic/social class of the families and upon customs of tribes/clans and could include acts of service rather than material goods. **Why would Saul ask for a "war trophy" from battle as the bride price? What do we learn about David that he is willing to get these trophies? Why does David bring 200 instead of the requested 100?**
8. Read verses 28-30. Look at 1 Samuel 16:14 & 18; 1 Samuel 18:12 & 15. **What is the difference between those four verses and verse 28? What piece of information made Saul even more afraid of David?**

Application: Everyone in chapters 17 & 18 know that there is something special about David, even the oldest son and youngest daughter of Saul, but Saul is only moving towards fear and jealousy. **Have you had an experience with someone where they are the only person who doesn't seem to "get it" when it comes to seeing truth?**

9. Reflecting on chapter 18, **what effect does jealousy have on Saul?**

Application: Read James 3:14-16. **Why is it important to avoid jealousy in our own lives? What is it that we should do to get rid of jealousy?**

