

## How Do You Respond to Jesus as King? / Life in Chaos 5 (1 Samuel 18)

Previously on “Life in Chaos” ... David the humble least of these – is anointed king. Empowered by God’s Spirit – *He has the courage to make much of God’s name in a battle where all are paralyzed in fear. He defeats the great giant freeing a nation – a picture of what Jesus has done for us and now – the army is on the way home.*

We are tempted to see the whole story of Saul and David here, of jealousy and evil plotting and think – God will physically protect me from those who become jealous of me or plot against me. This passage is not a prescription of how God protects us from evil plot when we are faithful. *David will be very unfaithful in the future and God will protect him. John the Baptist – forerunner of Jesus, whom Jesus said “born of women there has arisen no one greater,” lost his head to an evil plot against him. James a disciple - the brother of John – lost his life to Herod in another evil plot. Jesus was faithful and the evil plot against him – took his life. No this is text is not a way to teach how we deal with jealous people or evil plots. Rather – it is a great picture of how we respond to the rightful king – arising before our heart and eyes.*

**How do we respond to Jesus, when we recognize He is our rightful king who is battling for the throne of our heart?** Let me say it another way ...

*How do we respond to Jesus when he is not the baby in the manger or the teacher of love, but He is The King doing battle with the kings of our heart in order to sit on the throne of our heart?*

There are many ways we can respond to Jesus as King & this story gives us a great picture of how we do. So, we are simply going to look at the characters in this story & how they respond to the rightful king – David. We will look at: **the crowd, Michal (me-kahl), Saul, and Jonathan.**

When we recognize Jesus is our rightful king who is battling for the throne of our heart, we can respond like ...

- **The Crowds**

1 Samuel 18:6-7, 16 (ESV) 6 As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, “Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” 16 ... all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

**Crowds are fickle.** They were in Saul’s kingdom. The same nation begged to leave the tyranny of the Egyptian kings or pharos. They begged for a king other than God after He had established them in their new land. They exalted Saul when he was made king and now they exalt the newest, hottest, greatest man – David. They didn’t live in a republic like we do. You did not do this without putting yourself or this man at risk of death. In time, even after David becomes king they will turn on him as well during a civil war and support his son.

**The crowd’s allegiance was fickle - easily swayed BY WHAT SOMEONE DID OR COULD DO.**

When Jesus walked on the earth, **the Jewish crowds** in the Roman Empire were fickle in their allegiance as well. Feed us and protect us from the Romans – *and we will follow you. Ask for the throne of our heart and only promise internal peace – and we will look for a new king.*

**When our hearts are like the crowds - we are drawn to the benefactor or Sugar Daddy Jesus – Who can provide and protect us how we want.**

“crowd-like”: When we see that Jesus is first concerned with ruling our heart through love – we will look for a new king who we believe will first be concerned with providing for us and protecting us.

When we are crowd-like, we believe external peace is where our joy is. We would rather have a powerful king who has no love than a loving king who seems to withhold his power.

*The gospel of “the crowd” says – Jesus, provide for and protect me and I will follow. Is this you?*

- **Michal (me-kahl)**

1 Sam 18:20-21 (ESV) 20 Now Saul’s daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 Saul thought, “Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” Therefore Saul said to David a second time, “You shall now be my son-in-law.”

*She falls in love with David. She probably met him at the palace of Saul when he was brought to play music to calm the king. Here, she is being used by Saul - but she doesn't know or care because she has fallen fast and hard for David.*

Later, she loses this fast and hard love and even despises him.

2 Samuel 6:16, 20 (ESV) 16 As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart. ... 20 And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

*Her early love turned to shame and disgust when David embarrassed her.*

Jesus told of people who would respond to Him like this in a story he told about a sower who spread seed along the road. In the story, he told of people like Michal who would at first love the messiah, the king.

Matthew 13:20-21 (NLT) 20 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 21 Since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.

***Many respond quickly to Jesus. They fall in love because what he has done and who he is. But eventually who He is - leads to things that he wants to do in us and through us. His ultimate goal for us - is to be transformed into His image. When we are like Michal this scares us and can even make us mad.***

***"Michal-like": We want Jesus' love - but we don't want to change or lose who we are.***

When we are Michal-like, love means - no cost and no change. We want Jesus to make much of us with His love. Ultimately, we are the most important thing in our world and love is about what makes me happy.

***The gospel of "Michal" says - Jesus make me the center of Your world - and I will follow. Is this you?***

- **Saul**

1 Samuel 18:7-9 (ESV) 7 And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." 8 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 And Saul eyed David from that day on.

**Saul is jealous of David.** Saul had ultimate power, influence, and affection in the kingdom.

David is beginning to take these things away and Saul is jealous because he does not want to lose these things.

His jealousy reveals itself at times in anger and at times in fear.

1 Samuel 18:10-15 (ESV) 10 The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. 11 And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice. 12 Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul. 13 So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people.

14 And David had success in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him. 15 And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him.

Saul again plans to harm David, but this time by the hand of the Philistines. When Michal falls for David, Saul offers her to David. At first, David refuses out of humility - because he does not feel he is worthy to be the king's son-in-law. Eventually, he warms up to Michal. Which leads him to fall into Saul's jealous & evil trap.

1 Samuel 18:25-29 (ESV) 25 ... " 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.' " Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. Before the time had expired, 27 David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife. 28 But when Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him, 29 Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually.

Saul wants David dead, but he is beginning to realize he can't touch David. So, he gives him a crazy mission. If getting the 100 foreskins doesn't get him killed then the bounty put on his head by the Philistine nation after he does this will. They were an uncircumcised people. Killing their soldiers was one thing. Taking these foreskins

(which was circumcising them) would be considered mutilation of their bodies by the Philistines and would have put a huge price on David's head. David obeyed and succeeded. And, Saul feared and hated David more.

There were those in Jesus' day, **the religious leaders**, who had garnered great power, influence, and affection. When Jesus came – *He exhibited greater power, and influence and this made these leaders angry. But, when He began to capture people's affection – they feared Him. Their jealousy stirred their hearts to want Jesus dead! They were Jesus' enemy continually because of this.*

*When Jesus reveals himself as our powerful and rightful king – some respond with anger and hatred. They live a life that says – I only have worth and meaning when I have power and influence over others and Jesus threatens this. Jesus most deeply threaten this by taking people's affections from us. We fear losing our influence as we most deeply fear losing our place of king in their lives.*

"Saul-like": When we see Jesus as a threat to our rule – we will fight to keep our throne. **Is this you?**

*The gospel of "Saul" says – I don't need god, I functionally make things happen and make me happy.*

When we see Jesus as our loving, humble King, we are moved and begin to respond like ...

- **Jonathan**

1 Samuel 18:1-4 (ESV) 1 As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

Jonathan, like Michal, had more than likely met and been around David in Saul's palace when David was asked to play music for the disturbed king. They had become friends but after the battle, God moved Jonathan to respond to this anointed messiah, king in a way that no one had.

How? **He responds with a COVENANT.**

Covenant- Jonathan responds by entering into an unending relationship with David - *marked by ... by what??? How did Jonathan come to David?*

- committed love
- humble submission.

- committed love

1 Samuel 18:1, 3 (ESV) 1 ... the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.

This is not erotic love like a man and woman can have or homosexual love. Aristotle and other Gk. writers used this expression for friends – *one soul*. This was deep friendship - bound in deep commitment.

*Knit – tied together like an unbreakable knot*

*Covenant – to cut an agreement – literally became blood brothers*

- humble submission

1 Samuel 18:4 (ESV) And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

*The robe – was Jonathan giving up his royal position over David. - Humility*

*The armor, sword, and bow – were showing he would follow David into battle. - Submission*

*The belt – was like a ring. This is what was exchanged at every covenant agreement between clans or a couple. This said – all that is mine is yours.*

Jonathan was the rightful heir to the throne – the son of the ruling King – yet, he lays down all his privileges & literally gives them over to David in this covenant. **He doesn't just submit out of fear or because he knows David is a better warrior. He humbly & lovingly submits to the man he realizes is becoming KING.**

**We are to come to Jesus with committed love and humble submission – like Jonathan.**

Why did Jonathan respond this way?

- Jonathan saw David's love in how He cared for Saul. Even though God had left him – he served him.
- Jonathan saw David's deep humility. Had been anointed but kept it silent. Had slain Goliath – but kept it quiet, he did not think he was worthy to be the king's son-in-law, and more.

**Jonathan was moved by David's love and humility. It moved him to respond to this king differently than he responded to Saul – his own dad.**

**When you see Jesus – as just a power, a ruler – your sinful side will not respond well.**

Ultimately you will not see him as rightful king – just someone to meet your need ...

*I'm all in – if Jesus can protect my kids.*

*I'm all in – if Jesus can get me that job.*

*I'm all in – if Jesus will find me a godly man.*

**Is this you?** If so, you are believing a false gospel. Jesus is not a king just to meet your needs.

If Jesus is just a power or a rule – you may not see him as a king to meet your need. You might just see him as someone to threaten your rule.

*I'm all in – until Jesus asks me to give up control by submitting to a leader in my life.*

*I'm all in – until Jesus starts telling me to love and forgive one who has deeply hurt me.*

*I'm all in – until Jesus says I can't hate those who hate others. (race, politics, religion, etc.)*

**Is this you?** If so, you are believing a false gospel. Jesus is the rightful king of your heart – yet he comes humbling and with a deeply committed love to reign.

**This is how Jesus came to us in committed love and great humility ...**

Born in a manger, poor, no place to lay his head – not all powerful king. **Humility.**

He came dying – while we were sinful – not waiting for us to get it right – or get better. **Love.**

- The Gospel of Jesus says – We are accepted as family – because Jesus came to us in committed love and humble submission. Christ paid for, cut the covenant for us that makes us family. We enter by faith.

Have you trusted by faith – the humble and loving work of Jesus that brings us into his family?

Believer, Jesus – **came to us in committed love** – and still does.

Titus 2:14 (ESV) (Jesus) gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Believer, Jesus – **came to us in humble submission** – and still does.

revelation 3:20 (ESV) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

And he humbly and lovingly asks you and I to get off His throne.

1) It is rightfully His. He is King of All Creation. Lord of All. Your King and Lord.

2) He has work to do – ridding your heart of lesser kings (lawlessness) so we can enjoy Him more fully in His presence and service (good works).

*"In every Christian's heart there is a cross and a throne, and the Christian is on the throne till he puts himself on the cross. If he refuses the cross he remains on the throne. We want to be saved but we insist that Christ do all the dying. No cross for us, no dethronement, no dying. We remain king within the little kingdom of Mansoul and wear our tinsel crown with all the pride of a Caesar, but we doom ourselves to shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility." - Tozer*

**How do we get off the throne?**

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- See his great humility and humbly submit to your place. (Die daily to the lie He is your sugar-daddy or you are king.)

- See his committed love and let Him become your greatest affection. (This will keep you off the throne.)