

Series: 1 Samuel: Harp and Spear VI

Text: 1 Samuel 18:1-30

HI: **The Lord's plan succeeds in the face of hostility.**

Title: *The Shadow of the King*

Hook: Losing the win

Date: 2.11.24

Purpose: To comfort God's people with assurance of the Lord's plan in the Lord's presence.

FCF: In a world of Saul's, we face significant hostility. The Lord's grace protects his people and accomplishes his plan.

COR: Saul's degeneration and David's ascent are realities we witness in our day, as leaders vie for power. David's humility is winsome, while Saul's jealousy is gruesome. This teaches us about the nature of reality.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Longitudinal theme: Lord's plan accomplishes in face of hostility.

Apologetic: Envy is cancer, and we know this to be true. Why is it cancer? Because we are not made for ourselves, and feeding the appetites and ego is a dead-end street.

Text Tone: Test and Convict

Preaching Voice: Sage

Form: Inductive

Call to Worship: Psalm 109:30-31 (NASB)

Benediction: Hebrews 12:3

Outline:

I. Victory sparks loyalty and jealousy. (1-9)

A. Jonathan is inspired. (1-5)

B. Saul is threatened. (6-9)

II. The Lord's presence incites resistance. (10-30)

A. David strums the lyre as Saul slings the spear. (10-11)

B. The Lord's blessing of David haunts Saul. (12-16)

C. Saul is deceitful, but David is humble. (17-26a)

D. Saul's evil schemes only enhance David's esteem. (26b-30)

III. The Lord protects and brings success. (10-30)

Main Idea:

Subject: How was David successful when Saul was so hostile?

Complement: The Lord was with David and brought him success.

Exegetical Idea: David was successful even though Saul was hostile because the Lord was with David and brought him success.

Theological Idea: The Lord brings success through his chosen king despite all hostility.

Homiletical Idea: The Lord's plan succeeds in the face of hostility.

Introduction:

READ 1 Samuel 18:1-9

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. ⁵ And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. 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."

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.

I. Victory sparks loyalty and jealousy. (1-9)

(David, like the future Son of David, Jesus, is a dividing line. He inspires love from some and hatred from others)

“Israel’s low spiritual state is revealed in the fact that no praise was given to God, but only to men” Richard Phillips

Proverbs 14:30: A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.

“Old Testament examples are New Testament instructions.” John Owen

Alexander Maclaren: “Let us suppress its beginning. A tiger pup can be held in and its claws cut, but a full-grown tiger cannot.”

READ 1 Samuel 18:10-16

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. ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

II. The Lord’s presence incites resistance. (10-16)

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 2 Tim 3:12-13

READ 1 Samuel 18:17-30

¹⁷ Then Saul said to David, “Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the Lord’s battles.” For Saul thought, “Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him.” ¹⁸ And David said to Saul, “Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father’s

clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" ¹⁹ But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.

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." ²² And Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in private and say, 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king's son-in-law.' "

²³ And Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David said, "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?" ²⁴ And the servants of Saul told him, "Thus and so did David speak." ²⁵ Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, '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.

³⁰ Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed.

III. The Lord protects and brings success. (17-30)

HI: The Lord's plan succeeds in the face of hostility.

Psalm 35:

⁷ For without cause they hid their net for me;
without cause they dug a pit for my life.

¹² They repay me evil for good;

my soul is bereft.

- 19 Let not those rejoice over me
who are wrongfully my foes,
and let not those wink the eye
who hate me without cause.
- 20 For they do not speak peace,
but against those who are quiet in the land
they devise words of deceit.

John 15:24b-25

now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

HI: The Lord's plan succeeds in the face of hostility.

John 15:18-20

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."