

Aftermath of a Giant Killing

Text: 1 Samuel 17:55–18:30

Big Idea: After David killed Goliath, success did not make life easier; it brought new pressures, new dangers, and a deeper need for godly friendship. The passage contrasts Saul's envy with Jonathan's covenant love and calls believers to reject jealousy, celebrate God's work in others, and become faithful friends.

I. Introduction: The Modern Crisis of Friendship

1. Burger King's "unfriend ten people for a Whopper" campaign illustrates how cheaply friendship can be treated in modern culture.
2. The campaign's success exposes a deeper problem: many people, especially men, lack close friendships outside their family.
3. The sermon frames 1 Samuel 18 as a passage about friendship, but especially about why friendship becomes necessary after success changes David's life.
4. Transition: David's victory over Goliath does not immediately lead to the throne; instead, it opens a long and difficult valley.

II. David's Success Created a Whole New Family

1. **Scripture focus:** 1 Samuel 17:55–58; 18:2.
2. Saul asks whose son David is, not because he does not recognize David, but because David's family identity now matters politically and practically.
3. Saul had promised the giant-killer wealth, marriage into the royal family, and tax exemption for his father's household.
4. David is also taken from Jesse's house and kept in Saul's service; he will not return to life as a shepherd boy.
5. **Key lesson:** Success often brings sudden and overwhelming change. The quiet hillside is replaced by the

noise of the palace, and private faithfulness becomes public pressure.

6. **Application:** What looks desirable from a distance may carry hidden burdens. Success can be spiritually dangerous if we forget that God is the source of every victory.

III. David's Success Created a Whole New Fame

1. **Scripture focus:** 1 Samuel 18:5–7.
2. David succeeds in every mission Saul gives him and receives a high rank in the army.
3. The people celebrate David publicly: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."
4. David's fame becomes national. He now faces the challenge of recognition, applause, and public comparison.
5. **Key lesson:** Praise, popularity, and success reveal the heart. Success can go to the head unless a person remembers that God accomplishes the work and can continue without them.
6. **Application:** God's blessing should produce humility, gratitude, and dependence—not pride or entitlement.

IV. David's Success Brought Him a New Foe

1. **Scripture focus:** 1 Samuel 18:8–30.
2. Saul becomes angry when David receives greater public praise. His insecurity turns David from a servant into a threat.
3. **Three movements of envy:**
 - a. **Comparison:** Saul measures David's success against his own.
 - b. **Desire:** Saul wants what David has and can no longer enjoy his own position.

- c. **Resentment:** Saul begins to begrudge David's blessing and view him as undeserving.

4. What envy does:

- a. It makes people less happy with what they already have.
 - b. It causes people to abandon some of the best relationships in their lives.
 - c. It opens the heart to deeper sin when it is not confessed and resisted.
- 5. Saul's jealousy grows into fear, suspicion, hatred, and repeated attempts to destroy David.
 - 6. Saul throws a spear at David, sends him into danger, withholds Merab, uses Michal as a trap, and demands a deadly bride price.
 - 7. David responds with humility and faithfulness, while Saul becomes increasingly afraid because the Lord is with David.
 - 8. **Key lesson:** Jealousy often reveals the part of our life where we struggle to trust God's plan for us.
 - 9. **Application:** Believers must bring envy to the Lord quickly, trust God's plan for themselves, and celebrate God's plan for others.

V. David's Success Brought Him a New Friend

- 1. **Scripture focus:** 1 Samuel 18:1–4.
- 2. At the moment David most needs a friend, Jonathan becomes one in spirit with him and loves him as himself.
- 3. Jonathan and David share spiritual conviction: both are willing to stand for God's glory when others will not.
- 4. Jonathan makes a covenant with David, committing himself to loyal friendship through hardship and uncertainty.

- 5. Jonathan gives David his robe, tunic, sword, bow, and belt—symbolically yielding his royal claim and refusing to compete with God's anointed.
- 6. **Contrast:** Saul reacts to David's success with envy; Jonathan reacts with love, humility, and self-giving friendship.
- 7. **Key lesson:** True friendship is loyal, covenantal, and willing to celebrate another person's God-given calling.
- 8. **Application:** Everyone needs a Jonathan, and everyone is called to become that kind of friend to others.

VI. Closing Applications

- 1. **Jesus is the greater Jonathan.** Like Jonathan laying down what was his for David, Jesus lays down His robe of righteousness for sinners and takes the sword of suffering upon Himself.
- 2. **The church should be a family, not merely an event.** The kind of friends believers become defines the kind of church they are. A church should be known for loyal, sacrificial, steadfast friendship.
- 3. **God wants His people free from envy.** Envy must be confessed and resisted before it festers. The proper response is repentance, trust in God's plan, and prayer for the good of the person we are tempted to envy.
- 4. **Final prayer focus:** Ask God to make His people more like Jonathan than Saul—people who love deeply, celebrate others sincerely, and refuse to be ruled by jealousy.