



"Be Careful of an Enemy Called Jealousy"

1 Samuel 18:1-30

July 12, 2026

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 18:1-30

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. ²And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. ³Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴And 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. ⁵And 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.

Saul's Jealousy of David

⁶As 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. ⁷And the women sang to one another as they celebrated,

"Saul has struck down his thousands,
and David his ten thousands."

⁸And 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?" ⁹And Saul eyed David from that day on.

¹⁰The 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. ¹¹And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice.

¹²Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul. ¹³So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. ¹⁴And David had success in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him. ¹⁵And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. ¹⁶But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

David Marries Michal

¹⁷Then 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.

MAIN THEME

Following David’s victory over Goliath, God continued to bless him with remarkable success. He gained the deep friendship of Jonathan, the admiration of the people, military victories, and increasing influence throughout Israel. Yet the very success God gave David stirred jealousy in the heart of King Saul. Rather than celebrating what God was doing through David, Saul became consumed with fear, envy, and resentment. This chapter reminds us that God’s blessings often attract opposition, but it also teaches us the danger of jealousy and the importance of remaining faithful when others misunderstand or oppose us. Through it all, David prospered because the Lord was with him.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Godly Success Often Brings Both Blessings and Challenges

1 Samuel 18:1–5; 1 Samuel 18:14



- What qualities in David made him so respected by Jonathan, Saul's servants, and the people of Israel?
- Why do you think Jonathan responded to David's success with friendship while Saul responded with jealousy?
- How can success become a test of character for both the person succeeding and those around them?
- What lessons can we learn from David's humility even as his influence and popularity grew?

2. Jealousy Can Destroy a Person from the Inside Out

1 Samuel 18:6–12; Proverbs 14:30

- Why did Saul become so angry when he heard the women's song celebrating David?
- What fears seem to be driving Saul's jealousy?
- How can jealousy affect our relationships, decision-making, and spiritual health?
- Have you ever struggled with comparing yourself to others? How did you respond?

3. The Presence of God Matters More Than Human Approval

1 Samuel 18:12–16; 1 Samuel 18:28

- Several times this chapter says that "the Lord was with David." Why is that emphasis important?
- How did Saul's loss of God's favor contribute to his fear and insecurity?
- Why is it dangerous to base our worth on popularity, achievements, or recognition?
- What practical steps help us find our identity in God rather than in the approval of others?

4. Faithfulness to God Leads to Lasting Influence

1 Samuel 18:17–30; Psalm 75:6–7

- How did Saul repeatedly try to use David's success against him?
- How did David respond when Saul manipulated and mistreated him?
- What does David's example teach us about trusting God when others oppose us unfairly?
- How can we remain faithful and humble when God blesses us with success or opportunity?

PRAY

Dear Father, thank you for the example of David and for the reminder that true success comes from your hand. Protect us from jealousy, comparison, and pride. Help us celebrate



the blessings you give to others and trust your plan for our own lives. When we face opposition, give us the faith to remain faithful and the humility to honor you. May we desire your presence more than the praise of people and find our security in you alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For Further Study:

- Proverbs 14:30
- Proverbs 27:4
- James 3:14–16
- Psalm 75:6–7
- Galatians 5:26

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Freedom that Lasts

While we appreciate the freedom and wonderful nature of our country, true freedom – the eternal kind – can only be found through Jesus Christ.

