

I. Introduction and review.

II. The Lord is with David. v. 1-5

A. Everyone loves David.

1. Jonathan, the king's son, loves David. v. 1-4
2. The people, including Saul's servants, love David -- a popular hero. v. 5-7,16, 22
3. Saul's daughter Michal loves David (at least for now). v. 20,28 II Sam. 6:16

B. Everything David does prospers. v. 5,14,15,30

1. When conscripted to fight for Saul he becomes a successful military leader. v. 2,5
2. He is victorious in battle. v. 13-15
3. He evades Saul's attempts to kill him. v. 10-11
4. He even gets the girl! v. 20-28 Gen. 34:12 Ex. 22:17 Josh. 15:16
5. He has a great name (reputation). v. 30

C. What is the secret to David's success?

1. He is humble. v. 18,20 II Sam. 7:18
2. He acts wisely (prudently) in all things. v. 30
3. The LORD is with him. v. 12,14,28 16:18 Gen. 39:2-3,23
4. Even though he is wise and the LORD is with him, David has a hard road ahead.

III. The LORD has departed from Saul. v. 6-30

A. Saul's attitude towards David shifts from affection to jealousy. v. 6-9

1. Saul had once loved David. 16:21
2. Then he became jealous when heard the women singing David's praises. v. 6-7
Ex. 15:20-21 Jdg. 11:34 5:1 Ps. 68:24-25 149:3 Jer. 31:4
3. Pride leads to envy which leads to murderous anger. v. 8a
4. Why would Saul fear that David might take away the kingdom? v. 8b-9 13:13-14
15:23,28 8:20 9:16 17:8-11 18:13,16
5. Ironically, Saul is among the first to recognize David as the LORD's anointed.
6. He should have learned from Goliath that it is foolish to fight against the LORD's anointed. Acts 9:5

B. Saul, in a fit of rage, tries to murder David. v. 10-12 16:14ff Pr. 25:28 I Jo. 3:15

1. Saul tries twice and fails to kill David with his spear. v. 11a 19:10
2. Why didn't David stay away from Saul after this happened?
3. Saul is afraid of David. v. 12

C. Saul tries to get David killed in battle. v. 13-16

1. Again David is doing Saul's job. v. 13,16 9:16 29:6 Num. 27:16-17 II Sam. 5:2
2. Instead of dying, David prospers in battle and in the eyes of the people. v. 14,16
3. Saul's fear intensifies to dread. v. 15

D. Next, Saul uses his own daughters to get David to risk his life. v. 17-29

1. Saul first offers Merab to David if he will fight the Philistines. v. 17a
2. Saul hides his true motive, which is that David might be killed. v. 17b
3. Hadn't David already earned the right to Saul's daughter? 17:25
4. Saul breaks his word and gives Merab to Adriel instead. v. 19 II Sam. 21:8-9
5. Saul then tries to use his daughter Michal to ensnare David. v. 20-21a 19:16

6. Again, Saul is very deceitful and manipulative. v. 21b-22,25-26 Pr. 27:6
7. David succeeds, paying double what Saul demanded as a dowry price. v. 23-27
8. Saul is more afraid of David than ever. v. 28-29 15:24 17:11
9. All of Saul's attempts to destroy David end up advancing him instead – the principle of reversal. v. 30 Gen. 50:20 Isa. 55:8ff Ro. 11:33ff Ex. 1:12

IV. Conclusion.

A. Applications.

1. Beware of the destructive power of envy. v. 8 Ga. 5:26 I Ti. 6:4 III Jo. 1:9-10
 - a. Learn to be content with whatever place God gives you in life. I Tim. 6:6-8 Phil. 4:11-13 I Cor. 3:6-8 4:7 12:7 Ro. 12:6ff Heb. 13:5-6
 - b. The best way to overcome envy is to be consumed with the glory of God (not self). Phil. 1:15-18,20-21
2. You, like David, can honor and humbly serve those in authority over you, even when they are not worthy. v. 2, 13 I Pe. 2:13-3:6
3. Does Saul's example prove that fathers have complete control over whom their daughters marry? v. 17ff Gen. 24:58
4. Those who remain faithful to God still have troubles and enemies. Phil. 1:29-30 II Tim. 3:12 I Pe. 4:12-13 Rom. 8:31-39
5. The LORD still works in spite of those who oppose Him to bless His people and to spread His kingdom. Gen. 50:20 Acts 11:19 Rom. 8:28 Ps. 121:1ff

B. How does David typify Jesus Christ (the Anointed One)?

1. Jesus was humble. v. 18,23 Phil. 2:5-8 Mt. 11:29
2. The common people loved Jesus, which made the leaders jealous and afraid. v. 29b Lu. 20:19 Mark 15:10 Mt. 27:18
3. Jesus was hated and persecuted by powerful enemies. v. 29a Mt. 4:1ff Acts 4:27 Luke 23:13 John 11:48f 18:13ff
4. God used their opposition to exalt Jesus. Acts 2:23-24
5. Jesus went out before the LORD's people as a Shepherd and a Leader and fought the LORD's battles. v. 13,16,17 Num. 27:17
6. Jesus acted wisely and prospered in all things, ultimately accomplishing all He had been sent to do. 18:5,14,15,30 Isa. 52:13 53:10b-12
7. Jesus wins His bride by valiantly destroying the enemy of God's people. v. 17,27f Gen. 3:15 Eph. 5:25 Col. 2:15 Rom. 16:20
8. Jesus, after His humiliation, was given a great Name. v. 30 Phil. 2:9-11 Is. 53:12
9. God's people joyously sing of Jesus' great triumph. v. 6-7 Rev. 5:12ff

C. Is your response to the LORD more like that of Saul or that of Jonathan?

Discussion questions

1. Why does Saul's attitude towards David change?
2. Why is envy so dangerous?
3. How can you overcome envy?
4. Whom is Saul actually opposing?
5. How do false shepherds (pastors) resemble Saul?
6. Do parents have authority to tell their daughters (and sons) whom to marry?
7. How is David an example to those who serve under ungodly authority?
8. How is the principle of reversal illustrated in this passage?
Where else in Scripture and in our day do we see this principle worked out?
9. How, in this passage, does David point us to Christ?
10. How do Jonathan and Saul exemplify the two possible responses to Christ?