

## 1 Samuel Lesson 34 David's Rise and Saul's Descent Part Two

### Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

### Background:

**King's son in law:** : In ancient Israel marrying the daughter of a king would have made the groom the king's son in law. If he was from a lowly family the marriage would have raised his status. It would not have put him in line for the throne.

**"bride price"** : The bride price was a sum of money paid by the fiancée to the bride's parents. Typically it provided for the wife ahead of time in case her husband deserted her or died. Such a provision would not have been necessary for a bride from a royal household. However, the amount that was given reflected the status of the bride as well. The price seems to have been set by the father of the bride. David was from a lowly family. Saul attached the bride price to the military prowess of David rather than his financial resources.

**"request for foreskins"** In the ancient Near East certain body parts such as hands or heads were collected from the the enemy that had been slain for the purpose of a casualty count. The foreskins would have been proof that the victims were pagan Philistines who did not practice circumcision.

### Key Words:

**snare: Strong's H4170 "moqesh":** literally it means a bait or lure. in a net for birds.

A snare metaphorically is someone or something that allures one from his or her real purpose and then destroys him or her.

### Read I Samuel 18:17-30

In the last lesson David's success had aroused jealousy and fear in Saul. which led him to attack David with his spear. In this lesson, Saul was attacking David again, but this time he used 2 of his daughters to try and entrap him.

1. According to 18:17 Saul offered David his older daughter Merab as a wife. What did Saul ask in return from David? What was Saul's true motivation ? What does this verse along with 18:19 reveal about Saul's character?

2. In 18:18 how did David respond to Saul? What does this reveal about David's character? How can David's example help us when dealing with difficult people in authority over us?

3. In 18:22-26 Saul again tried to trap David with an offer of marriage to his other daughter Michal. This time he got his servants involved. What excuse did David give as to why he couldn't marry Michal in 18:23? In this portion of scripture what do we learn of Saul's character and of David's?

4. What evidence do you find in 18:27-30 that the Lord was with David? What was Saul's reaction in 18:28-29?

**Application:** Looking back over Chapter 18 what is the most important lesson you learned and why?

5. Do you see any examples or evidence in Chapter 18 regarding the four key themes found in 1 Samuel? If so please explain.

The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God

God opposes the proud and exalts the humble

Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history

Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

