

# David's Inferiority Complex

## 1 Samuel 18:6-9

Life Group Discussion – July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

After David defeated Goliath, he became a hero to the Israelites, but the Israelites did not know who David truly was. They knew that he was a musician in the court of the King, but not much else.

When David beat Goliath and won the battle against the Philistines, all the people began to sing his praises.

**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. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." (1 Samuel 18:6-7)**

After seeing all the praise going to David, Saul became very jealous. Most people begin to harbor feelings of jealousy and bitterness toward people who receive more praise or compliments than them. And it becomes the first step toward committing sin in one's heart.

This is why the moment any thought of, "Because this person is better than me, God will use them more powerfully..." must be thrown away immediately. Even though this is not an easy task, it is necessary for us so we can live a life in harmony with others. If you have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, then there is no room for jealousy when you see the success of someone else. In fact, you are spurred on and proud of other people's success because it can all be used for the glory of God.

But Saul could not separate his jealousy with David's success, and it caused a sickness to arise in his soul.

**And Saul eyed David from that day on. (1 Samuel 18:9)**

When it says Saul eyed David, it meant that he was watching David intently trying to cause him to fall. His obsession with David caused him to hate him even more.

**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. And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice. (1 Samuel 18:10-11)**

When Saul began to hate David, a harmful spirit entered him. In other words, when Saul forsook God, it left room for an evil spirit to enter him. This is why Saul tried to kill David twice with a spear.

This is why it is so important for us to hold on to our vision and the purpose that God has given us. When we hold on to it, it will be impossible for any evil spirit to enter our hearts.

The founder of the Salvation Army, William Booth, would say this to people he met,

"Are you still burning?"

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are able to stay passionate even as the years go by. The circumstances and situations of our lives cannot dictate our relationship with Jesus and the ever-burning desire we must have to be close to Him. This is why we must strive to be filled with the Holy Spirit and continue to come to him in worship, prayer, and in His Word.

**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." (1 Samuel 18:17)**

Before David had fought Goliath, there was a rumor that anyone who defeated the Philistines would be able to marry Saul's daughter and become part of the royal family. For David, this was the acceptance he was longing for. He was rejected and belittled by his father and his brothers, and finally saw a way to be accepted by all the people and respected in front of Israel.

**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?" (1 Samuel 18:23)**

Although these words may seem humble at first, it's important to remember to whom he is saying these words.

Our desire is not to receive acceptance or recognition from those around us, but to only work towards

pleasing God. For David, his only desire was to be accepted and loved by the people of Israel and King Saul. The way he believed that was to happen was by marrying into Saul's family. This is David's inferiority complex.

Even though it may have seemed like the perfect road for David, it was a terrible temptation laid out by Satan.

King Saul did not keep his promise after David killed Goliath. He decided not to allow David to marry his daughter. I believe it is important to understand when and when not to trust someone. If a person fails to keep their promise once, it is very likely that they will not keep it again.

Saul's youngest daughter loved David, so Saul tried to use David's inferiority complex to get him killed.

**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." (1 Samuel 18:21)**

The price to marry Saul's daughter was 100 Philistine foreskins. This could most definitely have been a death sentence to David, and yet David came back with 200 foreskins.

Even though David succeeded, God was not happy. This is because David was willing to go through extreme lengths to be connected to a person that had thrown God away because of his inferiority complex.

If you are not filled with the Holy Spirit, your support and your trust will be on man. Your ultimate prize will be the recognition of man instead of God, who should be your only true support.

But even in David's sin, God protected him. God protects and guides those who love Him in good times and in bad times. The good things become great, and the bad things become good.

It's important to realize that all things can and will be used by God for His good. Even though David came from a background where he was ignored and forgotten, he was able to be used powerfully by God. And even when his inferiority complex led him to act carelessly and sin, God was able to protect and use him as a powerful King that saved many.

Remember this...

If you hold on to the hand of a person, you will have to let go of God's hand. Trust only in God, and lean only on His Word.

This is my prayer for Shining Star.

## SHARING-----

1. Is there a place in your life that you have an inferiority complex? What areas do you feel inadequate or constantly looking toward people to affirm or accept you? Please share.
2. David relied on worldly methods and looked toward Saul rather than God. When was a time you trusted in a process or method more than in God? After you finish remember the phrase, "if you hold on to the hand of a person, you will have to let go of God's hand", and take some time to pray.