

# Saul Tries to Kill David

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# What We Will Learn

- Saul was jealous and afraid of David
  - David killed Goliath
  - Led Israel to victory over Philistines
  - When Saul could not do any of these
- Sought to kill David
- 1 Samuel 18 and 19
- Examine implications for a subordinate introducing an innovation

# Saul Was Jealous of David

- David conquered Goliath
- Led Israel to victory over Philistines
- Saul was too frightened to try
- Songs by Israeli women indicated greater appreciation of David than Saul
- 1 Samuel 18:6–9

# Saul Was Jealous of David

## 1 Samuel 18

6 When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes.

7 As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

8 Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?"

9 And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

# Saul Was Afraid of David

- God was with David
- But had left Saul
- David was successful in everything he did
- Loved by all Israel and Judah
- 1 Samuel 18:12–16

## 1 Samuel 18 (NIV)

12 Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had left Saul.

13 So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns.

14 In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him.

15 When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him.

16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

# Saul's 1<sup>st</sup> Attempt at David's life

- Saul tried to kill David by plotting accident
- 1 Samuel 18:10–11

10 The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand

11 and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

# Saul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Attempt at David's life

- Tried to use older daughter Merab
- Lure David into a dangerous task
- Hoped Philistines would kill David
- 1 Samuel 18:17–19

17 Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the LORD." For Saul said to himself, "I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!"

18 But David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel, that I should become the king's son-in-law?"

19 So when the time came for Merab, Saul's daughter, to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah.

# Saul's 3<sup>rd</sup> Attempt at David's Life

- Tried to use younger daughter Michal
- Lure David to attempt a dangerous task
- Asked David to marry Michal for a hundred Philistine foreskins
- David provided two hundred
- 1 Samuel 18:20–27

## 1 Samuel 18 (NIV)

20 Now Saul's daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased.

21 "I will give her to him," he thought, "so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." So Saul said to David, "Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law."

22 Then Saul ordered his attendants: "Speak to David privately and say, 'Look, the king is pleased with you, and his attendants all like you; now become his son-in-law.' "

23 They repeated these words to David. But David said, "Do you think it is a small matter to become the king's son-in-law? I'm only a poor man and little known."

## 1 Samuel 18 (NIV)

24 When Saul's servants told him what David had said,

25 Saul replied, "Say to David, 'The king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.' " Saul's plan was to have David fall by the hands of the Philistines.

26 When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king's son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed,

27 David and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines. He brought their foreskins and presented the full number to the king so that he might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.

# Saul's 4th Attempt at David's Life

- Told son Jonathan and all attendants
- To kill David
- Jonathan informed David about the plot
- Convinced Saul he should not kill David
- 1 Samuel 19:1–7

## 1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

- 1 Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David
- 2 and warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there.
- 3 I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I'll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out.",
- 4 Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly.
- 5 He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The LORD won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?"

## 1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

6 Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death."

7 So Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.

# Saul's 5th Attempt at David's Life

- David defeated Philistines in another battle
- Saul made up an accident to kill him
- David eluded him and escaped at night
- Saul sent men to kill David at his home
- David's wife Michal helped him escape
- 1 Samuel 19:8–17

## 1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

8 Once more war broke out, and David went out and fought the Philistines. He struck them with such force that they fled before him.

9 But an evil spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the harp,

10 Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape.

11 Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed."

12 So Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped.

## 1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

13 Then Michal took an idol and laid it on the bed, covering it with a garment and putting some goats' hair at the head.

14 When Saul sent the men to capture David, Michal said, "He is ill."

15 Then Saul sent the men back to see David and told them, "Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him."

16 But when the men entered, there was the idol in the bed, and at the head was some goats' hair.

17 Saul said to Michal, "Why did you deceive me like this and send my enemy away so that he escaped?" Michal told him, "He said to me, 'Let me get away. Why should I kill you?' "

# What We Learned

- Saul tried to kill David
- He was jealous
  - David accomplished what Saul could not
  - Saul was king, David a subordinate
- He was afraid of David
  - God was with David but had left Saul
  - People appreciated David more than Saul
  - Saul feared he could lose kingdom to David

# Applications of David's Experience to Present Day Interactions

- Similar present day occurrences
- Innovation introduced by a subordinate
- Higher authority feels threatened
  - Seeks suppression of subordinate
  - Or innovation
  - May threaten subordinate
  - May threaten innovation

# Applications cont'd:

## What Authority Figure Should Do

- Embrace subordinate and innovation
- May earn great benefits later
- Adopt “wisdom of the second boat”
  - Follow in good faith
  - Close enough to hear any call for assistance
  - Far enough to not interfere
  - Your harvest could exceed all imagination
- Don't be a Saul

# Applications cont'd:

## What Subordinate Should Do

- Be humble with the innovation
- Seek collaboration with others
- Include higher authority
- Retain leadership of the innovation
- If threat persists
  - Seek alternative options to grow innovation
  - Escape like David