

1 Samuel 18:1-5

Promotion from the Lord

In God's time, He began to exalt David, putting him on a trajectory that would culminate with becoming king. It was not David's scheming and manipulation that brought about his advancement. It was God's promotion. True promotion only comes from God, therefore we must be content with the position God has put us in and trust God to advance us if, when, and how He chooses.

I. A _____ Friend (1 Samuel 18:1, 3-4)

A. Their _____

- It was not David's exploits on the battlefield that caused Jonathan to befriend David. It was his wisdom and good _____ before the king.
- In many ways, Jonathan serves as a good illustration of _____, Who, though He is infinitely higher in position and honor than we are, stooped to befriend us. (*John 15:13-15*)

B. Their _____

- As a sign of Jonathan's affection, he entered into a covenant with David. They made and kept a _____.
- God is a God of _____. (*Titus 1:2; Psalms 15:1,4; 2 Corinthians 1:20*)

C. Jonathan's _____

- Jonathan was essentially sharing his _____ with David.
- Jesus took our filthy rags so that we might be covered by his perfect royal _____, the righteousness of the Son of the King of Kings. (*Isaiah 61:10; Ephesians 6:17-18*)

II. _____ Employment (1 Samuel 18:2, 5a)

- David acted as a royal _____. Saul would send him out to do business in the name of the king, trusting David with tremendous responsibility.
- Saul also made David a general in the _____. He was entrusted with the lives of all the soldiers under him and the fate of the nation.
- How we behave will impact God's _____ and the gospel's _____. (*2 Corinthians 5:20*)
- Being a Christian means getting our hands dirty _____ the good fight of faith. (*1 Timothy 6:12*)

III. _____ Acceptance (1 Samuel 18:5b)

- We should only ever live to please _____ and we should concern ourselves with His approval of our lives and no one else's. (*Galatians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:15*)
- God will allow us greater influence and responsibility because we have been _____ with the little that we began with. (*Luke 2:52*)

Conclusion

What is your goal in life? Are you trying to promote yourself, grow your audience, build your following and be star influencer? You cannot promote yourself and God at the same time. John the Baptist said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (*John 3:30*) We must be faithful to trust God and do what is right and rely on the Lord for our _____.

PBC PRAYER POINTS

Shut-ins

Elsie Banks | Jane Haynes

Ongoing Health Needs

Connie Bladine | Pat Hill

Eula Keener | Marvin

Ragsdale | Brian Thompson

Ann Whitley | Sophia Rambo

Elaine Milam | Betsy

Grenevitch | Aaron McIntyre

Calvin B. | Jim Tilson

Unsaved

Corey | B. B. | R.V. | Chris

Christy | Sarah |

Church Ministries

Sunday School | Children's

Church | Frontline Children's

Program | Teen Ministry |

Outreach Programs | Music

Ministry | Regular Services

Church Staff

The Chambers | The Riffels

Deacons

David Almand | David

Bachman | Dean McAvoy

Austin Jones | Drew McIntyre

National Officials

President Joe Biden

Vice President Kamala Harris

Senators Ossoff & Warnock

Representative Jody Hice

Supreme Court Justices:

Ketanji Jackson | Neil

Gorsuch | Clarence Thomas

Sonia Sotomayer | Elena

Kagan | Amy Coney

Barrett | Brett Kavanaugh

Stephen Breyer | John

Roberts

State/Local Officials

Governor Brian Kemp

Lt. Governor Burt Jones

State House Rep. Tim

Fleming | State Senator Brian

Strickland | Rutledge Mayor

Bruce Altnauer

Missionary Updates

Buddy & Loren Fitzgerald - Peru

Praises:

- Praise the Lord for a satisfactory resolution regarding the civil suit against the church property.
- They are mostly finished with phase 2 of the building program—the construction of a parsonage.

Prayer Requests:

- Buddy and Loren are still recovering from last year, health-wise. Buddy had a tumor on his spine, broke a rib and later a toe.
- Please continue to pray for a national pastor for their church, and ask the Lord to lead the church.
- Pray they will be able to evangelize the unreached tribes as they continue visiting and building ties with the tribal villages as they can.
- Pray as they plan to head upriver in March to visit multiple tribal villages with a medical mission team.
- The sinkhole next to our house has grown greatly. Pray that it doesn't force them to move.

Jeff & Elisabeth Carney - REACH Missions

- The Carneys are now a part of a new mission board, REACH Missions. They are continuing to minister in the Yucatan Peninsula, an orphanage in Jamaica, & church plants in the Middle East.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that God will provide the funds they need to complete the radio property (\$250,000 USD) in the Yucatan.
- Pray for a missionary couple to be boots on the ground in Jamaica.
- Pray with them as they ask the Lord for 1,000 professions of faith during

Recent Requests

- Praise the Lord that Sarai and Chloe are home and doing well.
- Jennifer Lucius' mother, Rhonda, is now in rehab. Please pray that she will be able to recover much of the function that she lost due to her recent stroke.
- Pray for Eula Keener's health as well as her upcoming move out of state.
- Praise the Lord that Sophia R. is showing signs of improvement since her recent nerve surgery.
- John F.'s (Matt Baron's coworker's father) congestive heart failure has not worsened. Pray that he will be able to receive the surgery he needs soon.
- Pray for Gwendolyn's parents who are both sick.
- Pray for two unspoken requests.

1 Samuel 18:1-5

Promotion from the Lord

Self promotion will always be a temptation for anyone that has a desire to succeed. We will be tempted to be impatient and take matters into our own hands to advance ourselves. We must trust God to lift us however high He wants us to go and to do it in His time. Likewise, we should be content to be as small as God wants for as long as He wants. “For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.” (Psalms 75:6-7)

In God’s time, He began to exalt David, putting him on a trajectory that would culminate with becoming king. It was not David’s scheming and manipulation that brought about his advancement. It was God’s promotion. In 1 Samuel 18:1-5, we read of three ways that God blessed and promoted David from a little known, small town shepherd to a well known leader of the nation. God blessed David with a princely friend in Jonathan, with prestigious employment in the service of king Saul, and with public acceptance by people from all classes. True promotion only comes from God, therefore we must be content with the position God has put us in and trust God to advance us if, when, and how He chooses.

I. A Princely Friend

1 Samuel 18:1, 3-4 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. [3] Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. [4] And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

God blessed and promoted David with a princely friend in king Saul’s son, Jonathan. Notice their affection, their agreement, and the adornment that Jonathan shared with David.

A. Their Affection

After hearing the way that David spoke to his father, king Saul, Jonathan was convinced that David was the kind of guy that he wanted as a friend. The bond between them was so strong that the Bible says his soul was knit with David’s soul. They were bosom buddies and became best friends. Some people have read into the statements of scripture some kind of homoerotic intent, but nothing could be further from the truth. There was nothing sensual about this relationship. It was two men becoming blood brothers, and committing their lives to the protection and service of the other. Their love was that of true men who are willing for fight and die alongside each other.

It was not David’s exploits on the battlefield that caused Jonathan to befriend David. It was his wisdom and good behavior before the king. Jonathan had seen countless men distinguish themselves as warriors. But none had also distinguished themselves as men of respect and wisdom and godliness as David had.

In many ways, Jonathan serves as a good illustration of our Savior, Who, though He is infinitely higher in position and honor than we are, stooped to befriend us. Jonathan became a “friend that sticketh closer than a brother” to David, just as Jesus became that kind of friend to us.

John 15:13-15 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. [14] Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. [15] Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

B. Their Agreement

As a sign of Jonathan's affection, he entered into a covenant with David. We are not told the details of this covenant, but it appears from future interactions that it involved mutual protection and help. Jonathan helped David when Saul was trying to kill David. David showed kindness and helped Jonathan's family, even after Jonathan's death. They made and kept a promise.

We live in a world increasingly reluctant to commitment. For instance, fewer people are marrying, choosing instead to cohabitate, because they do not want the responsibility involved in entering into a marriage covenant. God is a God of commitment. He makes promises, He keeps promises, and He expects us to do the same. Our very salvation is based upon the promises of God.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Some times we make promises that we never intend to keep. Other times we mean well, but find that keeping our promise is going to be harder than we first thought. In every instance we should only make promises we intend to keep and keep every promise we make.

Psalms 15:1,4 A Psalm of David. LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? [4] In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

In this also Jonathan reminds us of our Savior. Even though He is the Son of the King of Kings, Jesus promises us many things, including eternal life. And Jesus will keep His promises even more faithfully than Jonathan did.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in him [Jesus] are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

C. Jonathan's Adornment

As a sign of their friendship and the covenant relationship between them, Jonathan gave David his royal garments. This was a very significant act, not only because of the value of the clothes and weapons, but also because of the statement that it made. They were symbolic of his status as the prince, the son of the king. Jonathan was essentially sharing his royalty with David.

Again, we see in this a beautiful picture of what Christ has done for us. Through Christ we are clothed with righteousness. He took our filthy rags so that we might be covered by his perfect royal righteousness, the righteous of the Son of the King of Kings.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Jonathan also armed David with a sword and a bow, one for close quarters combat and one for long range attacks. In a similar but far greater manner, we have been given "mighty weapons" in addition to the armor of God.

Ephesians 6:17-18 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: [18] Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Jonathan's friendship was one of the greatest blessings in David's life. Through it, God would encourage, protect, and guide David for a long time. To go from being a lowly shepherd to the best from of the king's son was a great promotion.

II. Prestigious Employment

*1 Samuel 18:2, 5a And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.
[5] And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war,*

The second promotion that David received was a new job. Previously he had been employed as a shepherd and, for a time, a royal musician and armor bearer. Immediately after the battle with Goliath and the Philistines, Saul made David a full time employee of the kingdom.

His job was twofold. First, he acted as a royal ambassador. Saul would send him out to do business in the name of the king, trusting David with tremendous responsibility. As an ambassador, it was David's job to represent the king, and he behaved himself wisely in that duty. He didn't bring shame on himself or the king. He didn't undermine the king's authority. He was a faithful ambassador.

Saul also made David a general in the army. He would have been in charge of planning and executing battle plans, leading the men to war, and fighting alongside them. This was not a desk job or just a fancy title. David was entrusted with the lives of all the soldiers under him and the fate of the nation.

David had been the his father's errand runner, the "gopher" of the family. Now he is being sent out on the king's business. David previously fought with lions and a bears to protect a few sheep, but now he is fighting foreign invaders to protect a nation. God blessed David for his faithfulness in the small things and his willingness to trust God fully.

Consider the parallels to our lives. As Christians, we have also been commissioned as ambassadors. We are sent out into the world as official representatives of the King of Kings. How we behave will impact God's reputation and the gospel's reception. The reception of the King's message will be effected by the character of the messengers. We must behave ourselves wisely as David did for King Saul.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

We are also soldiers in the Lord's army. Being a Christian is not a desk job or a fancy title. It means getting our hands dirty fighting the good fight of faith. It means engaging the enemy in battle for the souls of men and the glory of God.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

David's position in king Saul's government would give him valuable experience and education that would later help him be a good leader. It was God Who promoted David to that prestigious employment. David didn't pursue it or promote himself. He trusted God and did what was right, and God exalted David in His time.

III. Public Acceptance

1 Samuel 18:5b And he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

The king's son and the king were not the only people who appreciated David's extraordinary character and accomplishment. As David's reputation spread, the general public and the royal servants also had a favorable opinion of David. His approval ratings went through the roof! Public opinion isn't everything, but when you work in the public sector, it certainly helps. David even had

favor in the king's court, which is amazing, considering how jealously politicians usually act. This was another clear indication of God's promotion of David.

It is wrong to live for the approval of man. It is sinful to live to please people. We should only ever live to please God and we should concern ourselves with His approval of our lives and no one else's.

Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

But when we live for God alone, He will often bless us with the favor of others. People will appreciate what God is doing in our lives. God will allow us greater influence and responsibility because we have been faithful with the little that we began with. This was the pattern that Jesus' life followed, and the pattern that ours should as well.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Rather than trying to build our brand and increase our influence, we need to focus on pleasing God and seeking His approval, and allow God to promote us in His time and in His way.

Conclusion

What is your goal in life? Are you trying to promote yourself, grow your audience, build your following and be star influencer? You cannot promote yourself and God at the same time. John the Baptist said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30) We must be faithful to trust God and do what is right and rely on the Lord for our promotion.