

Attendants of Success

1Sam 18

Introduction:

1. Many things accompany success – some welcomed – some not welcomed
2. David discovered this truth soon after his great success over Goliath
3. This chapter reveals some of the things which David received as a result of his success
4. These experiences are not unique to David for many have had the same experiences
5. We study these attendants of success so that we will be prepared for them when we succeed.
6. In this study we will notice three attendants of David's success over Goliath

I. AFFECTION FOR DAVID

1 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.

- For David, one of the most cherished attendants of his victory over Goliath was gaining the affection of Jonathan son of King Saul
- Here we see the beginning of one of the greatest friendships of all time

A. *Compatibility for the Affection*

- Good friendships do not come by accident
- The soul of Jonathan and the soul of David knit together because they were compatible – the two were kindred spirits
- They had much in common
- Character is attracted to character – godliness is attracted to godliness.

- We note four areas in which David and Jonathan would be of a kindred spirit

1. Gallant

- a) David exhibited gallantry in his assault of Goliath*
- b) Jonathan had demonstrated this same gallant spirit earlier when he went single-handedly against the Philistines at Michmash – 1Sam 14*
- c) Noble soldiers become friends with other noble soldiers not with deserters*
- d) Those who have strong patriotism do not have much affection for draft-dodgers*

2. God-conscious

- a) Both men lived a God-conscious life*
- b) David looked to God for help and victory in battle*
1Sa 17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.
- c) Jonathan also looked to God for help and victory*
1Sa 14:6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for *there* is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.
- d) This dependence on God was the basis of a great friendship*

3. Generous

- 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.
- a) Jonathan was a generous person and he would be drawn to David who was also a generous person*
 - b) We will note more about this later but for now it demonstrates the generosity of Jonathan*

- c) *David's generosity will be seen later.*
 - (1) 200 of his men were famished and could fight no longer so David allowed them to stay with the stuff
 - (2) After the victory, those who fought did not want to divide the spoils with those who stayed behind.
 - (3) But David ordered otherwise
- d) *Generous people make good friends but the generous are not drawn to miserly people*

4. Gracious

- a) *Jonathan's conduct really contrasted with the conduct of his father – King Saul – for Jonathan was gracious*
- b) *Jonathan had manners and he was considerate of other people*
- c) *David's gracious behavior in Saul's court and in the camp would attract him to Jonathan*

B. Character of the Affection

1. Strong

1b ... the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David...

- a) *The strength of this friendship is seen in the word "knit" that is used here*
- b) *The words means "knotted, tied together firmly by indissoluble bonds – they were bound together*
- c) *This same word is seen in Gen 44:30 to describe Jacob's love for Benjamin*
- d) *Oh that we would love our Savior with such a strong love*
- e) *Would that all husbands and wives had this strong love for each other bound together in marriage*

2. Selfless

3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

- a) *Jonathan loved David unselfishly for he loved David "as his own soul"*
- b) *When you love someone as much as you love yourself, you will be*

unselfish

Mt 22:39b ... Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

- c) *The unselfish love of Jonathan for David is seen in 1Sam 23:17*
1Sa 23:17b ... thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee...

- (1) Jonathan was next in line to be king after his father
- (2) But he understood that God gave the throne to David
- (3) A selfish person would have protested this situation
- (4) But Jonathan submitted to God's plan

- d) *Jonathan put God's plan and God's man before himself*

Mt 16:24b ... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

3. Sacrificial – vs 4

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.

- a) *Love gives and Jonathan gave David his robe and military equipment*
- b) *Jonathan's gift greatly honored David*
- c) *For a subject to receive the robe of a king or prince was the highest honor that can be conferred on a subject*
- d) *David was clothed as a peasant but after his victory over Goliath meant that he needed more honorable apparel*
- e) *Jonathan literally gave David the clothes off his back*
- f) *Jonathan providing garments for David is an illustration of Christ giving us a robe of righteousness at salvation*

Isa 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.

4. Steadfast – vs 3

3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

- a) *The steadfastness of this relationship is suggested in the word “knit”*
- b) *But the steadfastness is seen even better in the use of the word “covenant” here*
- c) *Two other times this covenant is referenced*

1Sa 20:16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies.

1Sa 23:18 And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

- d) *This covenant represents commitment, dedication and loyalty in the friendship*
- e) *Even though King Saul was critical of the friendship between David and Jonathan, the friendship held strong*
- f) *That is how Mephibosheth, the crippled son of Jonathan, was brought into David's palace and taken care of for the rest of his life*

Affection for David....

II. THE ACCLAIM FOR DAVID

- The friendship of David and Jonathan was a great blessing for David
- Some of the acclaim that David received after defeating Goliath was a mixed blessing for it agitated serious problems

A. Promotion from Saul

2 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, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

- Promotions are a logical attendant of success
- David's victory over Goliath revealed what a brave soldier he was

- King Saul was wise to keep David and employ him in the army

1. The Position – vs 5

a) *David's position was a major position*

- (1) The language here does not give a specific rank
- (2) But it describes a high position “over the men of war”
- (3) Abner was general but David had a high position

b) *David's position was a merited position*

- (1) David's performance on the battlefield merited promotion
- (2) David did what no other soldier would do and he deserved to be set over the others
- (3) Many things that Saul did were foolish, but promoting David here was not one of them

2. The Performance

5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

a) *This sums up David's performance*

b) *“Wisely” here comes from a word which means “to prosper”*

c) *David was attentive to duty – “David went out whithersoever Saul sent him”*

- (1) He had proven to be a dutiful son and here we see that he was also a dutiful soldier
- (2) He paid more attention to the responsibilities of his position than to the honors of the position
- (3) He didn't let the promotion go to his head
- (4) Those who climb as fast as David need to have good heads and good hearts

d) *David was accepted by the people*

- (1) Acceptance is not always experienced by those who do well
- (2) Often those who do well experience rejection
- (3) David served with excellence and could not be faulted (like Daniel)

e) *Perform your duties well as a testimony to your faith*

B. Praise from Singers

6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. **7** And the women answered *one another* as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

- It was common in the Mideast that when the victorious army returned bands of women and children come out of towns and villages to celebrate the victory
- Everyone enjoys applause and acclamation but praise can bring problems
- This praise for David was the beginning of a problem which lasted for years

1. Reaction of the Women

a) *The Song Exalted David*

- (1) The song said that David killed 10x more than Saul had slain
- (2) Giving David more credit than Saul was correct for it was David who killed Goliath
- (3) King Saul had no good plan to fight Goliath
- (4) Though it was true, it caused much trouble

b) *The Song Excluded God*

- (1) What a sad contrast song is to the song sung in Ex 15 after the destruction of the Egyptian army
- (2) They did not magnify Moses and sing his praises
- (3) All the praise went to God – Ex 15:21

21 And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

- (4) We need to remember the source of our strength and success is God – not man

- (5) It is not sinful to give due honor to man, but leaving God out is shameful

2. Reaction of King Saul

a) *A Pathetic Reaction*

8 And Saul was very wrath, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom?

- (1) Saul's reaction was one of jealous rage
- (2) He could not stand for David to get more praise than he got
- (3) This kind of envy and jealousy is often seen in offices and businesses when one receives the promotion and someone else does not
- (4) You are not walking with God if you are quickly upset by slights especially when they come from such fickle sources as these women singers

b) *A Prolonged Reaction*

9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

- (1) The song of the women engendered ill-feeling for David which would last for many years to come
- (2) "eyed" has a continuous sense here
- (3) Do not be upset if you miss the praise and applause of others – it may be a blessing in disguise
- (4) Let's put our emphasis on seeking the praise of God – not men

The Acclaim for David....

III. ADVERSITY FOR DAVID

- Along with David's success came a friendship with Jonathan, the praise of the singers and, thirdly, adversity
- This was a bitter and unwelcomed attendant of success
- Soon David would begin his fugitive years, his years of exile

- In a positive sense, these were the years of refining when David was put into God's refining furnace
- Yes, troubles often follow triumph and persecution may follow praise and often after achievement comes adversity
- David had his problems with King Saul, Joseph had the treachery of his brothers, Paul had his thorn in the flesh
- These strengthened them for the tasks ahead

A. *Danger of the Spear*

- David faced adversity as Saul murderously threw spears at him several times

1. Problem of Saul – vs 10

10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and *there was* a javelin in Saul's hand.

- David received more acclaim than Saul from the women and the next day the problem of the evil spirit returned*
- Don't fail to notice the connection between Saul's jealous rage in vs 9 and the return of the evil spirit in vs 10*
- Indulge in jealousy, envy and hatred and we give place to the devil*
- Allow envy to take hold of your life and it will open the door to other problems*
- Envy, jealousy and hatred must be stopped quickly before other problems develop*

2. Prophesying by Saul – vs 10b

10b ...that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul...

- Saul's prophesying here was not good prophesying for it was caused by an evil spirit, not the Holy Spirit*
- The Hebrew word here is used in the hithpael which emphasizes "to prophesy falsely, to feign being a prophet" – Wilson*
- Some say that the idea here is not the message of Saul but the*

- mannerisms. He had very animated speaking mannerisms associated with a prophet who was prophesying*
- d) *Saul was in a violent raving frenzy and that is when David was called to bring in the harp to calm Saul*

3. Purpose of Saul – vs 10, 11

10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and *there was* a javelin in Saul's hand. **11** And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall *with it*. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

- a) *Saul intended to kill David with his spear*
b) *Envy can bring bodily harm to the one who is envied*
c) *Envy can be murderous if unchecked*
d) *Envy was involved in the Jewish religious leaders delivering Jesus to Pilate to be crucified*

4. Protection from Saul – vs 11b

11b *...And David avoided out of his presence twice.*

- a) *David escaped from Saul's murderous intentions by getting out of Saul's presence as quickly as possible*
b) *Yes, protection came from God but it still involved David taking some quick action*
c) *God protects us in evil but that does not exclude our taking quick action to leave the evil*
d) *Quickly get away from those who are doing evil to ensure your own safety*

5. Persistence of Saul – vs 11b – “twice”

- a) *Saul did not easily give up on his wicked goal to kill David for he tried twice*
b) *The devil is like this – he does not give up easily*
c) *Evil does not give up easily*

- d) *Once you have escaped temptation, beware, it is no time to relax*
- e) *In 19:9 Saul again threw a spear at David and this time it stuck in the wall*
9 *And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.*
- f) *The devil means business*

B. Dismissal of David

12 *And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. 13* *Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.*

- *Saul had twice failed to kill David and after that he dismissed David and made him a captain in the military*
- 1. *Dread in the Dismissal – vs 12*
 - a) *David escaping twice put fear in the heart of King Saul*
 - b) *Saul recognized that these escapes indicated that God was with David and not with Saul*
 - c) *If God was with David, then maybe David would try to kill Saul and he was afraid*
 - d) *Therefore, moving David out of the palace seemed like a good idea to Saul*
- 2. *Design in the Dismissal – vs 13a*

13 *Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand...*

 - a) *This was a move to save Saul's life*
 - (1) *He couldn't kill David and he was afraid that David would kill him*
 - (2) *If David could kill Goliath then he could kill Saul*
 - (3) *Moving David out of the palace was a move to protect Saul*
 - b) *This was a move to save Saul's image*
 - (1) *To Saul, David was too popular with the people*

- (2) Since David outshone Saul, getting David out of the palace and into the army would give Saul the royal limelight again
- c) *This was a move by God to protect David, the future king*
 - (1) This third design was unknown to King Saul
 - (2) God was using this action of Saul to keep David alive
 - (3) Evil men think that they are so clever but God often uses their schemes to promote His own work instead

3. Demotion in the Dismissal – vs 13

13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand...

- a) *This removal of David can be seen as a demotion – being removed is the same as being fired*
- b) *David would no longer serve in the palace which was a great honor*
- c) *“Captain over a thousand” sounds like a prestigious position but remember that David had been “over the men of war” in vs 5*
5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war ...

4. Deportment of the Dismissed – vs 13-14

13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. 14 And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.

- a) *David’s reaction to his dismissal was commendable*
- b) *There was no protest and David continued doing his duty*
- c) *David’s deportment here teaches us how to act when we are mistreated, when we are not given due recognition or pay or honors*
- d) *Get busy doing the work that has been assigned to you and be the best you can*
- e) *If we brood, fuss and complain and do a poor job it will only increase our problems*

5. Dynamic of the Dismissed – vs 14 – “the Lord was with him”
 - a) *It is not the position that one has, but it is the presence of God that matters*
 - b) *David was removed from the palace but he was not removed from God’s presence*
 - c) *Spiritually David was not demoted*
 - d) *How much better to be in God’s presence than the presence of an ungodly king who is trying to kill you*
 - e) *Though sold by his brothers into slavery, the Lord was with Joseph*

6. Dodging of the Dismissed – vs 15

15 *wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.*

 - a) *“Afraid” here is not the same word as in vs 12 above*
 - b) *This word means “to turn aside”*
 - c) *This is one who is fearful and timid of another and he goes out of his way to avoid someone else whom he fears*
 - d) *Saul avoided David for fear of him*
 - e) *He dodged David like a criminal dodges the police*

7. Delight in the Dismissed – vs 16

16 *But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.*

 - a) *Saul’s attempt to diminish David’s glory and favor with the people failed miserably*
 - b) *David performed his duties so well that the people continued to admire him*
 - c) *Saul wanted David out of the limelight but it didn’t work that way*
 - d) *Again we see that God defeats the plans of the wicked*

c. Deception About a Spouse

- The 3rd instance of adversity which David experienced from Saul involved Saul’s deceptive offers of a wife for David

- Since David was loved by the people, Saul found it politically expedient to be more friendly with David
 - This friendliness was fake and Saul offered David two of his daughters (one at a time) to be wives but deceit was prominent in both offers
1. Offering of Merab – vs 17

17 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.

a) *Design in the Offer*

- (1) The purpose of this offer was that David would be killed
- (2) David simply changed his tactics here
- (3) The spear did not work so Saul tried a new idea
- (4) In order to get Merab, David was required to be valiant in fighting the Philistines
- (5) Saul hoped that in this fight David would be killed

b) *Disguise in the Offer – vs 17 – “the LORD’S battles”*

- (1) Saul sounded so pious here mentioning the LORD’S battles
- (2) This is like a politician mentioning God in his speech when he really doesn’t care about God but he just wants to impress religious conservatives

c) *Deference About the Offer – vs 18*

18 And David said unto Saul, Who *am* I? and what *is* my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?

- (1) David’s answer was one of respect and humility
- (2) David merited one of the daughters of Saul because he slew Goliath – 17:25

25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with

great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

d) *Defrauding – vs 19*

19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.

- (1) Saul went back on his word
- (2) Saul's design was murder, not marriage
- (3) When murder failed, then King Saul gave his daughter to someone else

2. Offer of Michal

- After the Merab incident, Saul offered another daughter to David

a) *Prompting of the Offer*

20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

- (1) Michal's affection for David did not displease Saul
- (2) The reason for this was that Saul could use this affection for his own purposes which involved an opportunity to kill David
- (3) Saul was interested in the happiness of his daughter, he was interested in getting rid of David

b) *Purpose of the Offer – vs 21a*

21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in *the one of the twain*.

- (1) Saul intended to use Michal the same way he wanted to use Merab – to get David killed by the Philistines
- (2) When one marries the wrong person the devil can use it as a “snare” to harm that person spiritually
- (3) The “snare” comment is a warning for anyone contemplating marriage

c) *Parleying About the Offer – vs 22-23*

22 And Saul commanded his servants, *saying*, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.

23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you *a light thing* to be a king's son in law, seeing that *I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed?*

- (1) Saul knew that after deceiving David in the offer of Merab his word would not hold much weight about Michal
- (2) Saul would have his servants butter up David into taking Michal as his wife
- (3) There was some deception from the servants – “the king hath delight in thee” – though the servants might not have known it

d) *Price in the Offer – vs 24-25*

24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. **25** And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

- (1) Saul had a ready response to David's words
- (2) No dowry was expected except the death of 100 Philistines
- (3) Saul's hope was that David would be killed in by the Philistines

e) *Payment for the Offer – vs 26-27*

26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. **27** Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.

- (1) David paid twice the amount required by Saul

- (a) *This was symbolic of David's performance in matters of life*
- (b) *He did more than what was required*
- (c) *When David did a task he did it completely*
- (2) Saul was even more aware that God was with David
28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him.
- (a) *What a good testimony David was in his conduct*
- (b) *He live in such a way that others knew that God was with him*
- (3) Saul was even more afraid of David – vs 29a
29a And Saul was yet the more afraid of David...
- (a) *Things were not improving for Saul*
- (b) *The more he plotted against David, the more afraid he was*
- (c) *Wicked men are headed for fearful times*
- (4) David became Saul's archenemy – vs 29b
29b ...and Saul became David's enemy continually.
- (a) *Saul's attitude toward David was getting worse and worse*
- (b) *The best soldier that King Saul had was not his archenemy*
- (5) David's actions encouraged the Philistines to attack
30 Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth...
- (6) David continued to behave wisely – vs 30b
30b ...that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.
- (a) *See the excellence of David's performance*
- (b) *See the higher esteem in which David was held*
- (c) *David was valuable to his nation but Saul didn't see it*