



**Title** | Just When You Think You've Finally Arrived  
**Series** | Making a Difference in a Nation Adrift  
**Text** | 1 Samuel 18:6-16  
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# Sermon Notes

**1 Samuel 18:6** 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. **7** And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." **8** And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" **9** And Saul eyed David from that day on. **10** 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. **11** And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice. **12** Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul. **13** So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. **14** And David had success in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him. **15** And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. **16** But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them. *ESV*

## Big Idea:

**1 Samuel 18:12** Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul. *ESV*

## For Reflection and Application:

### Monday:

Read 1 Samuel 18:6-7. After being anointed by Samuel as a teenager, then not knowing why, then waiting, and then being underestimated and discouraged by others' opinion of him, how do you think David now feels as he returns victorious to women singing and dancing? Have there been times in your life when you felt like you have finally arrived?

### Tuesday:

Read 1 Samuel 18:8-12. How does Saul feel about David and why does he try to take his life? To what extent do you think David understands this? Have there been people in your life, perhaps other believers or people in authority, who have tried to harm you for no good reason?

### Wednesday:

Read 1 Samuel 18:13-16. In verse 13, Saul tries another way to kill David. How? According to verses 14-16, what is the result? Have there been times in your life when you are confused by the coexistence of success in some areas with painful conflict in others?

### Thursday:

Saul's antagonism toward David continues for over ten years until Saul dies and David succeeds him as king. In 1 Samuel 18:12, 14, it says of David, "the Lord was with him." If that is true, why didn't God remove Saul as a source of anguish and pain?

### Friday:

Read Psalm 11:5, written by David later in his life. What does it mean that "the Lord tests the righteous?" (See also Proverbs 17:3 and Job 23:10.) How could Saul's attempts on David's life be something the Lord used to test or purify David? What does this suggest about how we should view and respond to the pain of purification in our own lives?

### Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me to stop obsessing about arriving at an easier place in this world and to be at peace with the pain of purification until I see you face to face. Amen.

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