



Title | Unseen Battles
Series | Making a Difference in a Nation Adrift
Text | 1 Samuel 18:17-30
By | Bob Kerrey
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Sermon Notes

1 Samuel 18:17 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.” **18** And David said to Saul, “Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father’s clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?” **19** But at the time when Merab, Saul’s daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife. **20** Now Saul’s daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. **21** 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.” **22** And Saul commanded his servants, “Speak to David in private and say, ‘Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king’s son-in-law.’” **23** 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?” **24** And the servants of Saul told him, “Thus and so did David speak.” **25** Then Saul said, “Thus shall you say to David, ‘The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king’s enemies.’” Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. **26** And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king’s son-in-law. Before the time had expired, **27** David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king’s son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife. **28** But when Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved him, **29** Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David’s enemy continually. **30** Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed. *ESV*

Big Idea:

1 Samuel 18:28 But when Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved him, **29** Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David’s enemy continually. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read 1 Samuel 18:17-18. Saul reneges on his promise to give his daughter in marriage to anyone who killed Goliath (see 1 Samuel 17:25). What condition does Saul add? Why does he add it? Is David aware of Saul's intentions?

Tuesday:

Read 1 Samuel 18:19. The text says, "Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David," suggesting David met the added condition for marriage. But again, Saul reneges. Why? Is David aware of Saul's motives?

Wednesday:

Read 1 Samuel 18:20-26a. Saul's adds yet another condition for marriage. What is it? Why does he add it? Is David aware of Saul's intentions?

Thursday:

Read 1 Samuel 18:26b-27. What do you think of David's decision to double the number required for Michal's hand in marriage? Is it courageous? Is it generous? Is it showing off? Is it to prove something? Is it youthful exuberance? Or is it just foolhardy?

Friday:

Read 1 Samuel 18:28-30. What have Saul's efforts to get rid of David accomplished? According to the middle of verse 28, who is responsible? Was it because David was so good? Is God fighting unseen battles for you? What difference does that make?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, thank you that you are fighting unseen battles for me. This truth helps me to appreciate you more, to trust you more, and to rest in the knowledge of your unseen care for me. Amen.

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