

Episode 6: Forged in Fire



READ 1 SAMUEL 18

Read 1 Samuel 18:19-27 to learn more about David in this episode.

We know Saul was mad at David for his refusal to marry Merab. But the events of this episode were very surprising! However, they are actually pretty close to scripture. Let's dive in and see.

Merab is angry at David for his refusal to marry her. She is disappointed that things are not going her way. What disappointments have you experienced that didn't go your way? Reflecting back, can you see that it didn't occur the way you wanted because God had a different plan? Explain the situation and what you learned.

Merab isn't the only one mad that David refuses to marry her. Saul is upset too and Ahinoam devises a plan to get rid of David. Circle the group that they believe will help take care of David.

1 Samuel 18:20-21 (ESV) – 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."

Saul makes an unusual request from David. Underline what Saul wants David to give him for Michal's hand in marriage. Circle again who Saul believes will help take care of David.

1 Samuel 18:22-26 (ESV) – 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 The 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,

Did you notice in these verses Saul looks like he loves David, but he has alternative motives?

There is evil in this episode and that has been building up in the show. The bible talks about the seven things the Lord despises. We are starting to see this play out in the show and it is really affecting the House of Saul. Read below and circle the seven things.

Proverbs 6:16-19 (ESV) – ¹⁶ *There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who breathes out lies and one who sows discord among brothers.*

We will come back to these verses in the next episode, but where do you see the following playing out in the characters in the House of Saul? Indicate the situation and the person who is doing the following things that the Lord hates.

- Lying –
- Heart devises wicked plans -
- Feet run to evil -

Saul's request is the same in the show, but the setup/ trap is not stated in scripture. Once David and his 30 men get to the Forge of Gath, the Philistines know he is coming and trap them in the forge and start a fire. David is able to blow up the door so him and his men can get out of the forge, but then he becomes the main target. All the Philistines are trying to kill David. At some point there is a whole Philistine army up against him. Have you ever felt everyone/ everything was against you? Maybe the situation felt impossible? What do you do when you are in difficult situations? What would God want you to do?

David knew God was with him and this was evident to the Philistine king. He had his troops retreat because he knew he could not win against God.

Poor Merab didn't end up married in this episode, but Jonathan did. It seems that this is the season of marriage. Ishvi and Dinah got married and now Jonathan and Sara got married in her hometown. Jonathan professed his love to Sara and asked her to marry him. He explains that he will not be king as he was not anointed, David was. He is free from having to rule and relieved to not become the next king. Sara agrees to marry him with this recent news. They are married by her grandfather and then head to the kingdom to tell his family. Everyone is happy for them, including Saul. The only one who is salty is Merab.

Merab feels that she is “un-chooseable”. Yeah, not sure if that is an actual word, but that’s how she feels. She attends the feast for Jonathan and Sara and sees that everyone has someone, Ishvi and Dinah, Jonathan and Sara, David and Michal. She is all alone. Your heart goes out to her because all she wants is to be loved, accepted and chosen. I’m sure we have all felt this way before. Read the following verses and circle what God says about us.

- **Ephesians 1:4 (ESV)** – *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*
- **John 3:16 (ESV)** – *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Well, the impossible has happened again for David. He not only slayed a giant, but now he has delivered the foreskins Saul requested. Read below and circle the number of foreskins he delivered to Saul.

1 Samuel 18:27 (ESV) – *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.*

In the show, not only did David deliver the foreskins, but he also destroyed the forge. He did all that Saul asked for and more, 200 foreskins more. David says he wants Michal’s hand in marriage announced tomorrow! Wow, don’t mess with this guy! Saul is so angry that the plan did not work out to get David killed by the Philistines, he takes it out on Ahinoam. He kicks her out of the kingdom and banishes her. While this is partially warranted, did you also notice he doesn’t take any of the blame? He went along with the plan; he allowed himself to be influenced by his wife. Are there any areas of your life that you need to shoulder the blame? Are you blaming someone else when you really have a role in the situation as well?

While Ahinoam’s banishment is not stated in scripture. Circle the names in the following scripture that Saul calls her. Maybe something did happen between him and his wife.

1 Samuel 20:30 (ESV) – *Then Saul’s anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, “You son of perverse, rebellious woman, do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother’s nakedness?”*

I can’t wait to see what happens in the next episode. I’m hoping it is a big, beautiful royal wedding. After David talks to Saul, well really demands that he marry Michal the next day, he proposes and asks Michal to marry him. Of course, we know she says yes! It sounds like something might actually go right for this hopelessly in love couple.