

Begin Service with:

Proverbs 11:2

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom

Proverbs 22:4

Humility is the fear of the LORD; its wages are riches and honour and life.

Intro - Humble

There are Bibles in front of you

If you could turn to 1 Samuel 18

There's an outline for you to take notes - if you wish

Let me ask God for His help and understanding

Let's pray...

[PowerPoint 1 - Play song]

We'd better define humble then:

[PowerPoint 2 - Humble definition]

Having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's importance.

American evangelist D.L. Moody - said

[PowerPoint 3-DL Moody]

Be humble or you'll stumble.

[PowerPoint 4-Churchill]

Winston Churchill was once asked, "Doesn't it thrill you to know that every time you make a speech, the hall is packed to overflowing?"

"It's quite flattering," replied Sir Winston. "But whenever I feel that way, I always remember that if instead of making a political speech I was being hanged, the crowd would be twice as big."

Being humble is our topic today...

Context

[PowerPoint 5-Heading]

Before we look at today's passage though - let's get the context

[PowerPoint 5a-David]

- **David** has been anointed as the **replacement** to King Saul - but Saul will remain as King for the time being
- David is **servicing** in the King Saul's Palace
- David has just killed the Philistine champion, the giant **Goliath**
- It would be **understandable** if David started to think he'd made it and he was all puffed up and arrogant and prideful - but he's not

[PowerPoint 5b-Jonathan]

- **Jonathan** is the **son of the current King** - King Saul
- By rights, **Jonathan** should succeed King Saul as the next King - he is the **Crown Prince** - but God has rejected Saul as King and told him that his dynasty stops at him - none of Saul's family will ever be future kings
- It would be **understandable** if Jonathan was bitter about this - but he's not...

Both David and Jonathan have **humble hearts**

Let's have a look at what a humble heart looks like....

[PowerPoint 6-Heading]

Having a humble heart looks like

Loving God and loving others as yourself - that's in verses 1 to 4

[PowerPoint 6a-love God/others]

1. Loving God & loving others as yourself (18:1-4)

- *Jonathan and David were alike.* They were a *similar age*. They were both *bold and brave*. They both *trusted God* and were *men of action*. Most of all they had a *real and personal relationship with God*. They *loved God* and had a *heart towards God*.
- Because they both loved God - this made it easy for them - to have a very *close relationship*
- It's like how Christians can go and visit another church on holidays and hit it off with the folk in the church because they have that same common bond and love for our Lord Jesus
- V1 - says David and Jonathan were *one in spirit* - it literally means their *hearts were bound together or knitted together* because they had a *heart for God*
- We see in v2 - that Saul - after David's success in defeating Goliath - allowed David to remain in the King's service. David would never again be a shepherd - but he would always have a *shepherd's heart*
- V3- Even though the Jonathan and David were on track for the same throne - Jonathan made a covenant with David - a friendship alliance. Why? Because Jonathan loved David as himself. A love and friendship that would prove stronger than jealousy, stronger than envy, and stronger than

ambition. The thing they had in common - that personal relationship with God - was bigger than any of their differences.

- V4 - Jonathan even took off his robe, his tunic, and his weaponry (sword and bow) and gave them to David. Why? Because, Jonathan recognized God's hand was on David - and acknowledged that David was actually the Crown Prince - the King elect - and not Jonathan, himself. If the issue of "who will be the next king?" was not settled in the hearts of Jonathan and David - they could never have a close loving relationship. They loved each other more than the throne of Israel - because **they loved God** more than the throne of Israel
- Also, Jonathan was saying - even though I'm the crown prince and you, David, are my father's music player and a leader in my father's army - whatever is mine, David, is yours!

Application: We shouldn't be surprised by the fact that Jonathan loved David as himself. When Jesus was asked which was the most important commandment - in Mark 12:28-31 - He gave the answer by summarizing God's rules (10 commandments) down to two - love God - and love your neighbour as yourself (quoting OT - Deut 6:4, 5 & Lev 19:18). Humble hearts will always be loving towards God and loving towards others.

You see there is an equality in love. By loving each other - we're saying that love conquers any barriers or differences - and there is an acceptance of the other person in choosing to love them - despite any differences. As we've learnt recently God looks at the heart - not outward appearances - our love needs to do the same.

Can we genuinely say we are loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength?

(pause)

Can we genuinely say we are *loving towards everyone*?

(pause)

Is what we have - available to everyone? Or are we selective?

(pause)

What about the poor, the homeless, the needy, the addict? Do we really love them as ourselves?

(pause)

Humble hearts - love God and love others as we love our self

(pause)

Second - having a humble heart looks like

Not being jealous of others, not retaliating, but remaining courageous - that's in verses 5 to 16

[PowerPoint 6b-not jealous]

2. Not being jealous of others, not retaliating, but remaining courageous (18:5-16)

In verse 5 - David had great military success and Saul gave him a high rank in the army

David received a hero's welcome in vv6-7

You can just imagine - the women from all the towns dancing with joy as they sang "Saul has slain thousands, and David his tens of thousands"

David could easily have let Israel's new number one pop song in the charts - and his popularity go to his head but he didn't.

Compare David's humility with Saul's pride and jealousy as leader.

It is a bad sign in a leader when the leader resents or feels threatened by the success of a subordinate. It is a sign of weakness in the leader. See what Saul says in v8 **"Now what more can he [David] have but the kingdom?"** This is a typical over-reaction when someone is proud and insecure. Saul could have thought, *"David did well and he has his glory today. I'll keep serving the Lord and have this kind of praise myself another day."* Instead, Saul over-reacted and said, **"Now what more can he have but the kingdom? "**

There's also something else going on for Saul: it's a guilty conscience. He knows the prophet Samuel has already told him that the Lord has rejected him as King. Saul knew his sin disqualified him from being king, and he clung to the throne in desperation. An honorable man would have stepped down, but if Saul were an honorable man, he wouldn't be in this mess in the first place. Instead, Saul was constantly plagued with the thought, *"When will God finally remove me from the throne? Who will He raise up to replace me?"* This insecurity also made Saul over-react to the praise and popularity given to David.

Saul's jealousy towards David made him increasingly bitter and angry

See v10 - whilst David was playing the lyre for Saul - Saul threw a spear at David - not once - but twice!

David's music playing which initially had soothed Saul - now had the opposite effect - it now actually annoyed Saul!

We have to admire David's humble heart here

Even though he'd defeated Goliath and had great success in military action - David doesn't see his service of playing the lyre for the King - beneath him. Nor does he retaliate when Saul attempted to kill him twice. Others in the same situation might have picked up the sword and said - if Goliath didn't scare me - you won't, Saul! And then pin Saul to the wall.

But as far as David is concerned, if God has anointed him as the new King, then God, will be the one to uninstall Saul as King, in God's own perfect timing.

Application:

Are we jealous of others success - instead of being pleased for them?

(pause)

We may have spears thrown at us in our lives - by people out to get us - not literal spears but metaphorical spears - but we should not return fire with those spears and retaliate. However, we do need to be courageous We need to stand up for what is right. We need to boldly stand against what is wrong. We need to show we are tough and can't be pushed around. We need to stand for injustice or unfair treatment. We are the defender of the faith and of God's Word.

Will we be humble of heart and courageous in standing up for our faith - like David?

(pause)

Third - having a humble heart looks like

Not using people as pawns but showing respect - that's in verses 17-30

[PowerPoint 6c-don't use people]

3. Not using people as pawns but showing respect (18:17-30)

In these verses, because of his jealousy and anger, Saul tried to set **three traps** for David...

First trap - Saul offered David, his older daughter - Merab - in marriage as long as David fought against the Philistines. The hope was that Saul wouldn't have to kill David himself - the Philistines would do that for him - in battle!

But in v18 - David humbly said - *who am I and what is my family or my clan in Israel that I should become the king's son-in-law?* So, Saul's daughter - Merab - was given in marriage to someone else

Second trap - Saul found out his daughter - Michal - was in love with David and offered her in marriage to David - again Saul hoped Michal would be a snare to David and again that the Philistines would kill David in battle (v21)

But again v23 - David humbly said - *Do you think it is a small matter to become the king's son in-law. I'm only a poor man and little known*

Third trap - Saul offered a price for his daughter - Michal - of 100 Philistine foreskins to have Michal as his wife. Again, Saul's plan was to have David killed by the Philistines

This time - David - was pleased to be Saul's son in-law and took up the King's challenge and achieved the task before the allotted time - and even did more than was required and killed 200 Philistines and brought back their foreskins (v27) - thank goodness the Bible is not illustrated - and so Michal became David's wife

These **three traps** just highlighted to Saul (v28-29) that the Lord was with David and just made Saul even more afraid and paranoid of David than he already was.

You see evil fosters more evil. Deceit fosters more deceit.

In contrast, David's humility and respect, brought more success and admiration (v30) - The bottom line (v30) - David was blessed with more and more success because of his humble heart. Because the Lord was with him (see v12)

Application:

Are we using people to get our own way?

Are we scheming so people fail?

Or are do we have humble hearts and show respect to everyone - like David did?

(pause)

Our Response (Philippians 2:1-11)

[PowerPoint 7-Heading]

David's wise behaviour and high regard were both closely connected to his ***humble heart***.

[PowerPoint 7a-Response]

In a far far greater way - the **Son of David** - our Lord Jesus - in our NT reading Philippians 2:9 - God gave Jesus highly exalted Jesus and gave Him the name which is above all names.

Why was Jesus so highly esteemed?

Because - v6 - even though Jesus is fully God - Jesus did not consider being equal with God - something to be used to His advantage - No! He made Himself

nothing - became a servant - left the glory of Heaven - and came to Earth as a human being - to purchase salvation for all who believe in Him - Jesus humbled Himself - out of obedience to the Father - humbled Himself to death on a cruel Roman cross - so that the punishment for our sin could be placed on Him - and He could die for our sin instead of us - and so we could gain forgiveness of our sins.

What the Apostle Paul's argument is - is if Jesus who is God - can humble Himself - so can we - so our **response** is there in verse 5

We need to humbly have the **same mindset as Jesus**

This same humble heart and mindset was in David

This same humble heart and mindset was in Jonathan

This same humble heart and mindset was in the Apostle Paul -

- I am the least of the apostles. 1 Corinthians 15:9
- I am less than the least of all the Lord's people. Ephesians 3:8
- I am the worst of sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

So, our response should be as in v5

V5 - In your relationships with one another have the **same mindset** as Christ Jesus

[PowerPoint 8-Conclusion]

So, to finish up with then.

What would the same mindset of Jesus look like for us?

[PowerPoint 8a-mindset]

- It would look like - not regarding our position or status in life as the most important thing in our life
- It would look like - always being obedient to God the Father
- It would look like - giving glory to God - not ourselves - for all we have and all we do
- It would look like - not writing people off - based on their race, colour, education, ability, health, age, job, or financial status - but showing the love of Jesus to all
- It would look like - enduring persecution for the sake of Jesus and not retaliating
- It would look like - standing up for Jesus and the Gospel with boldness and courage
- It would look like - never using people but respecting them

That mindset of Jesus in ONE WORD - is **HUMBLE**

[PowerPoint 9-1 Peter 5:5]

Let us remember: God opposes the proud but shows favor to the **humble**
(1 Peter 5:5)