

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF 1 SAMUEL

[PART 36]
**LOVE, MALICE
AND MOTIVES**

Reading: 1 Samuel 18:1 - 16

Introduction

- David was now going to experience what Jesus spoke of [Matthew 10:35].
- Being a child of God can often bring strife and be divisive.

1 Divine Favour And People's Loathing

- Saul's hatred of David started with the lyrics of a song. [18:7].
- This is the story of a man who was loved by God and a man who was forsaken by God.
- David (loved of God) was loved. [16:21], [18:1], [18:16] and [18:20].
- Subsequently this man had the presence of God. [18:18], [18:12], 18:14] and [18:28].
- Saul was the man who lost the presence of God. [16:14].
- Notice [vs 9]. Jealousy and a root of bitterness took root. [Hebrews 12:15].
- Get rid of the root or become '*a Saul*'

2 Keep Your Word

- The godly person keeps their word, the ungodly person doesn't. [Vs 17] Saul promises his daughter to David and then reneges on his word. [vs 19].
- This was part of the deal for the one who would slay Goliath [17:25].
- Note what Jesus says about keeping your word. [Matthew 5:37].
- Say what you mean and then mean what you say.

3 Motives

- A motive is the reason why we say something or do something.
- With God the motive for doing something is more important than the thing that's done.
- Consider [Proverbs 16:2] and [1 Corinthians 4:5].
- **NB.** Actions are visible but motives are secret.
- Saul only promoted David to lead his army in the hope he might get killed. [vs 17].
- In [vs 25] the suggested '*dowry*' was again in hope David would be killed by Philistines.
- That was Saul's ulterior motive for his request.
- What is your motive for saying/doing what you do?
- Our motive for serving the Lord ought to be '*sola deo gloria*,' not self-promotion.
- Consider [16:7].
- One day, all that we do in God's name will be tested before God rewards it. [1Corinthians 3:13 - 15].
- Further consider [Psalm 139:23/24].

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