

## Class mantra



There is nothing too hard for  
God.

I am a daughter of the King.

God has great plans for me!

I will make every effort to live  
as a Christian should.

I will strive to inspire and  
encourage my sisters to do the  
same.



# Michal

## “Caught in the Middle”

### -Love, Loss, and a Bitter Heart-

Women of the Bible Speak: FWCC Sister's Bible Class

Sis. Portia Davis

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# Let's Set the Scene...1 Samuel 12 – 18



## Key Scriptures

- 1 Sam 13:1
- 1 Sam 13:13-14
- 1 Sam 15:11; 35
- 1 Sam 16:10-12
- 1 Sam 16:14-23
- 1 Sam 17:32-51
- 1 Sam 18:1-4
- 1 Sam 18:5-19

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# Michal – The Daughter of Saul

Chapter 18

# Michal – The Daughter of Saul

## She had her eyes on the prize

- Princess of the royal court; younger daughter of Saul & Jonathan's brother
- Has the distinction of being the only woman in the Bible reported to have loved a man (1 Sam 18:20, 1 Sam 18:28)
- Likely that she thought her father was doing a loving thing for her by proposing her marriage to David

## Witness to her father's initial greatness and ensuing downward spiral

- A man chosen by the people, anointed by the prophet Samuel
- Had everything going for him – wealth, power, and the favor of God and then he lost it by his own disobedience and poisonous jealousy
- Her father ***hated*** the man she loved and used her love for David to be a snare to him
- She likely had very little she could do or say to restore her father to health & wholeness
  - Can we relate? How difficult is it to be the child of a parent who is making destructive choices?

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# Michal – The Wife of David

# Michal – The Wife of David

- Unrequited love for and complete devotion to David (1 Sam 18:28)
- Saved David's life (1 Sam 19:11-16)
- Chose her husband over her father (1 Sam 19:17) – read aloud
  - Politically caught between being the daughter of the king and the wife of the (presumed) future king. This was both physically and emotionally dangerous
- David on the run/ Separated from David (14 years)
  - David takes other wives (Abigail and Ahinoam)
  - Saul marries Michal to another man, Palti (1 Sam 25:44)

# Michal – The Wife of David

- David becomes king, continues in his war against the Philistines
  - Meets resistance and concerned about political opposition; he commands Michal “daughter of Saul” to be brought back to him (2 Sam 3:13-16)
  - Michal is taken away from her husband Palti; he follows behind her weeping
    - This is the only time in Scripture that we see a man weeping like this for the love of his wife
    - We have no record of *her* shedding tears. Whatever her feelings for Paltiel, she left him behind and returned to her first husband, the love of her young life
- Another layer of instability added to Michal’s complicated life
  - It’s easy to feel sympathetic toward Michal and her plight: Pushed around by her father, deserted by her husband, she had a hard way to go.
  - Feelings of abandonment, of frustration, of helplessness surely clouded her days

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# Michal – The Bitter Woman

No longer a daughter, no longer a wife

# Michal – The Bitter Woman

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- David has solidified his hold on the kingdom and is looking to bring the Ark of the Covenant into his new capitol city – Jerusalem
  - Leads the procession and dances with all his might in front of the Ark as it enters the city (2 Sam 6:14)
- Michal's contempt for David (2 Sam 6:16)
  - But as the Ark of the LORD entered the City of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, looked down from her window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she was filled with contempt for him.
  - David offers sacrifices to God and blesses the people; he returns home to bless his family and Michal comes to the street to meet him and rebukes him (v20)
- Her Bitter End
  - Michal dishonored her husband, her king, and her Lord. That may explain the closing line of her story: “And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death” (2 Samuel 6:23)

# 5 Lessons from Michal's Bitterness

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1. Her bitterness was understandable
  2. Her bitterness kept her separate
  3. Her bitterness despised another's overflowing joy
  4. Her bitterness blocked her blessing
  5. Her bitterness became her barrenness
- As Israel celebrated all they'd gained what if Michal could only think about what she'd lost?
  - Maybe we've lost something or someone this season. Maybe we have a hundred reasons to be bitter too.
  - **Make no mistake, the enemy wants you glued to the window**, not worshipping in the street.
    - He wants you separate from the presence of God. Do not take the bait! Leave the window and seek the Lord. He is the great comforter, and the one who brings joy from mourning; beauty from ashes; life from death. Let him bring it to you.

# God's Providence

Lessons learned and  
key takeaways

# God's Love & Practical Application

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How does the love of God as our Father contrast to Saul's love as Michal's father?

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How does the love of Christ as the bridegroom contrast to David's love as Michal's husband?

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How can we relate to the experience of tension between the family we were born into and the family we establish?


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# At Times, We Are Our Own “Michal’s”

- Sometimes we have inner voices that are our biggest hurdle and we have to learn to get over ourselves
- We have to learn how to get over “SELF-” (hatred, doubt, pity, centeredness) before we can gain self-confidence and grow in self-love
- Sometimes the Lord has to stretch us and work our “SELF” out to prepare us for what He is calling us into
- God is training us to run the race He has set before us. But the “Michals” scream from the sidelines, attempting to stop our progression and keep us from advancing, leaping and dancing.



# Who are the Michal's that need to be cut?

- Are there...
    - People in our lives always looking down on us or passing judgement?
    - Condemning voices from the enemy constantly speaking negative tones over us?
    - Relationships in our lives that are continuously toxic and inharmonious?
    - People who openly despise you for “dancing before the Lord”, misunderstanding our motives, or scorn our Christian behavior without understanding our true hearts for God?
  - Perhaps it is time to separate by cutting these relationships from our heart, minds, and lives
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# How can we fix it?

- Be careful not to make assumptions, pass judgements, or jump to harsh conclusions about others
  - Recognize that we are unable to accurately weight the motives of one's heart
  - There is only one judge who sits high and looks low – that is God
- Don't question another without seeking God – recognize you could be wrong
- Apologize for behaving unrighteous
- Be quick to ask for forgiveness when stepping into the wrong
- Look to God for strength and wisdom, especially in difficult situations and definitely when “caught in the middle”
  - As life unfolds, we sometimes find ourselves with circumstances that defy a simple answer. This is when we must place ourselves at God's feet – as He is the ultimate source of wisdom (1 Peter 5:7 & James 1:5)



**Michal**  
**“Caught in the Middle”**  
**-Love, Loss, and a Bitter Heart-**

Comments Welcome