

17—Michal’s View of David—Unashamed Worship

2 Samuel 6:11-23

Most of us have probably witnessed or lived this scene before. You are sitting in worship and as the sermon continues your mind begins to drift off into space daydreaming of other things. Or, as everyone is singing a song you find yourself singing the words without even really thinking about what you are singing. You are on auto-pilot. Or, as someone is leading prayer, your mind gets caught thinking about the cute baby or toddler who is turned around and trying to get your attention. Have you ever been in those situations? Have you ever thoughtlessly and mindlessly gone through a worship assembly while your heart was far removed from the building?



**“Then David danced before the Lord
with all his might; and David was
wearing a linen ephod”**

2 Samuel 6:14 (NKJV)



speaks with boldness or passion catch you off-guard?

It is sad and scary to think that heartfelt moments in worship can be so rare and unexpected they surprise us. We may even tap a friend or family member on the shoulder or give them a look as if to say, “Did you hear that?” If we judgmentally think less of someone because they are willing to sing out, cry during a prayer, or pound the pulpit during a sermon then perhaps we need to be reminded of the story of Michal and David in 2 Samuel 6:11-23.

David was a man of heartfelt worship. We know from David’s youth he was a man who was musically inclined. King Saul had him play his harp whenever a “*distressing spirit*” consumed him and David’s musical abilities helped Saul feel better (1 Samuel 16:23). Saul actually had his men seek David out for this very reason (1 Samuel 16:16-18). David authored many of the psalms found in the book of Psalms. Near the end of David’s life he refers to himself as “*the sweet psalmist of Israel*” (2 Samuel 23:1). For all of David’s faults we cannot say a lack of passion in worship was one of them. His psalms speak of a man who regularly communicated about God and to God. The worshipper may have had his flaws (all of us do) but he sought God’s presence through worship.

Perhaps no better instance of David’s worshipful attitude can be found than in 2 Samuel 6. In this text, we see David worshipping “with all his might” and we see Michal, his wife, actually ashamed of his overly enthusiastic actions as he danced before the ark. Let’s see what we might learn from this interesting text.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 2 Samuel 6:11-15. What event was taking place as David offered worship to God? How does he express himself in worship? Why was this a significant moment in Israel’s history (1 Samuel 7:2; 2 Samuel 6:6-10)?

2. How does Michal feel as she looks out her window at David celebrating this significant moment with intense enthusiasm (2 Samuel 6:16)? What does she say to David when he returns to the house (6:20)?

3. In all fairness to Michal, we need to back up for a moment.

- How had, at one point, Michal felt about David (1 Samuel 18:20-21, 26-28)?
- What had Michal done for David to express this love in the past (19:11-12)?
- What had happened to Michal after David left and abandoned her for over a decade (1 Samuel 25:44)?
- Despite David's multiple marriages, what does he do to Michal's marriage (2 Samuel 3:12-16)?
- Based on this background, does this help us understand how Michal felt about David (2 Samuel 6:16)?

4. Despite David's flaws and Michal's bitterness towards him, how does David feel about her statements (2 Samuel 6:21-22)? How does this affect their marriage in the future (6:23; cp. 2 Samuel 21:1-9)?

5. Can an individual's known past sins and flaws cause us to despise their worship? Yet, is it not our flaws and God's perfection which compel us to worship? In what ways could both Michal and David have helped this situation?

Key Lessons:

- God is worthy of heartfelt praise and thanks (Psalm 103)
- Our worship can be tarnished by our hypocrisy (Matthew 15:7-9; 1 Timothy 2:8).
- King David was willing to offer burnt offerings and peace offerings in worship to God. Let us also, though imperfect, give God "*the sacrifice of praise*" (Hebrews 13:15).

Additional Notes: _____
