

Marriage Series 2009, (#2)
“FAMILY FEUD”

There used to be a TV program called Family Feud. They would pit two families against each other on a game show.

Today's lesson is about a Family Feud that is more like the Hatfield's and McCoy's. It was a feud between King Saul and David that spread to both families and lasted a decade and caused untold pain on both sides.

Marriage counselors list Family Feud in the top five of marital conflict (sex, money, parenting, in-law/kin, and outside interests and neglect).

The seed of this Family Feud was planted when King Saul promised great wealth, marriage to one of his daughters, and exemption from taxes to any Israelite who could kill Goliath (1 Sam.17:25).

King Saul offered his oldest daughter to David according to customs of the day. However King Saul added a second condition. David must join the Israelite army and fight against the Philistines. Saul was hoping that David would be killed in combat. But when the time for marriage came, Saul gave his oldest daughter to another man. (1 Sam.18:19). **David kept a relaxed mental attitude (RMA) (James 1:2).**

It was at this time that another seed of Family Feud was sown. This time, Saul's youngest daughter, Michal, made it known that she loved David and would like to marry him (1 Sam.18:20). Up to this point the feud has been one-sided, all Saul. But it will soon become a full-blown Family Feud between these two families that will last a decade with deaths on both sides (2 Sam.2).

**This lesson will study six aspects of this Family Feud between the families of Saul and David
That will be an attack upon the redemptive plan of God.**

1. Michal was daddy's little girl and yet Saul plotted to use her marriage to kill David (1 Sam.18:21).

Saul added a third condition for David to become his son-in-law. The third condition required a bridal price of 100 Philistine foreskins. Saul's thinking was that David would never get them without being killed. (1 Sam.18:24-25). **David kept a RMA (Col.3:15).**

Reluctantly Saul gave Michal to David in marriage with intentions of killing him (1 Sam.18:27-29). Saul was confident that he could manipulate Michal without consideration of the consequences (Col.3:21; Ps.127:3).

2. The Bible makes it clear that the Lord was with David and not with Saul. (1 Sam.15:10, 23, 26; 16:1).

“Do not look at his appearance or at his height or his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Sam.16:7)

The issue in Family Feud is not who is right but who is righteous. God is on the side of righteousness (Ps.34:15; 37:25; Matt.6:33; Eph.6:14).

During this time, the Lord gave David great success in the military and he became a very successful general (1 Sam.18:28-30) [Read].

3. David's military success as favor with God enraged Saul and he plotted to assassinate David while leaving his home (1 Sam.19:11-24).

Michal learned from her brother of the plot and helped David escape the assassination. She was charged with conspiring with the enemy by her father. But rather than putting her in prison or having her killed, Saul annulled her marriage to David and married her off to another man (1 Sam.25:42-44) [Read].

And David became a fugitive of injustice and for the next several years Saul became obsessed with killing David (1 & 2 Samuel). [And you think you have marital problems.]

4. After the death of Saul, David was appointed king over Judah while Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was appointed king over Israel (2 Sam.1-4).

Now the Family Feud passed down to members of the families of David and Saul. They engaged in warfare with much bloodshed and misery (2 Sam.2-4).

The wear and tear had gotten to David. Note the change in his attitude towards life and people. (Gal.6:9; Matt.11:28-30).

Since the time Michal was torn out of his life, David has married six times with a household of kids (2 Sam.3:2-5). And he isn't through yet, he will add more conquest of woman like warfare (2 Sam.5:13-16)

- David seemed to handle adversity better under authority than as authority.

5. Because of the presence of the pain of past injustices in his life (OMCD).

David became a modified version of what he hated about Saul in life. He became a cruel, bitter, insensitive believer inflicting pain and misery on others (2 Sam.3:12-16).

David should have become what he loved in life – more like Christ and less like Saul (Col.2:6-7; Eph.5:23, 25). He should have given as received: forgiveness, mercy, grace, and the love of God (2 Sam.6:21-23; Eph.4:31-32, 22-24).

6. Because of the presence of the pain of past injustices in her life (OMCD), Michal also became what she hated in life.

She has become cynical, hateful, resentful, and disrespectful of divinely delegated authority (2 Sam.6:16-28).

Since the time that David was torn out of her life, she has tried to make some type of life out of great chaos and pain.

Michal should have become what she loved in life and NOT what she hated in life. She should have become more like Christ and less like Saul (Rom.7:14-25; 15:1-7).

Try writing your own story in a journal and how it happened to you. How you have become a modified version of what you hate and how you have become more like what you hate than what you love.

The question to answer is what are we going to do about it?

Are we going to let the painful adversities of life destroy our relationship with the Lord and others?

Or

**Will we use them as building block in our spiritual growth with the Lord and others, even our enemies?
(Rom.5:1-5; 8:35-39)**

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