

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
MICHAL RAINING ON DAVID'S PARADE
2 SAMUEL 6:12-23

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Introduction

Revisit for a moment what has happened thus far in verses 1-12.

David heard of the LORD blessing the house Obededom while the Ark of God abode there for three months and changed his tune about bringing the Ark of God back to Jerusalem.

So this time David went up with “*all the house of Israel*” (*Vs 15*) to bring the Ark of God back to its rightful place. That is all of the house of Israel **except his wife Michal, Saul’s daughter**, who viewed their entrance into the city of Jerusalem from a window in the house. (*Vs 16*)

It seems that Michal was only one person in all of Israel **who did not and who would not** enter into the spirit of rejoicing and celebration! And **her interpretation** of what she saw was **limited to the brief view from her window!** But as far as she was concerned, she had seen enough to rail on her husband!

The writer of the book of 1 Chronicles makes very little of this, devoting only one verse to the subject and informing us that as Michal looked on, **she despised her husband in her heart** for his role in the celebration! (*1 Chronicles 15:29*)

The writer of 2 Samuel here has a similar verse (*2 Samuel 6:16*), but he then follows up by describing the actual confrontation between David and Michal which followed, and telling us the outcome! (*verses 20-23*)

I. MICHAL’S PERCEPTION OF THE WHOLE EVENT.

Michal was **NOT** a part of the celebration— She was **a spectator, NOT a participant**. She was looking out the window of the palace, watching the ark arrive within the city! (*verse 16*)

All the rest of the nation had been with the ark from the time it left the house of Obed-edom and were out in the streets participating with what was going on!

She was **NOT** a part of that caravan which accompanied the ark from the house of Obededom to Jerusalem!

In fact, she seemed to want no part of it! Even if she had not been personally thrilled about the event, you would think she could have made some kind of token appearance with her husband, the king, but it didn’t happen!

(Read verses 17-19)

So we see that after all the celebration and sacrificing of burnt offerings and peace offerings had ended:

1. David blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts,
2. He allotted a portion of food and drink to the people,
3. Then he went home to bless his household.

However, Michal had no intention of being a part of that, and so she proceeded to “*rain*” on David's praise and blessing!

You can almost see her standing in the doorway of the palace with her hands on her hips and a scowl on her face as David arrives home.

Before David could even open his mouth, she seems to vent her anger toward him.

What was it that she saw, or thought she saw, that made her so angry? Well, by her own words, she saw a king, a man of position and power, acting like a “*vain fellow*” or a fool.

She saw a man she perceived to be clothed in a way that was far below his position as king and she was livid about it. David had acted like a fool! She thought he had embarrassed himself, and most certainly he had embarrassed her!

II. THE SCRIPTURE'S RECORDING OF THE WHOLE EVENT.

Before we turn to David's perception of this same situation, let us first look at what the Scripture tells us of this event.

How does the Scripture see what David here? Does the Scripture recording of the situation square with Michal's?

A. The Scripture here in 1 Samuel does not suggest that David was naked or improperly dressed!

1. Scripture does tell us that David was dancing with all his might, and (6:14)
2. Scripture tells us that he was wearing a linen ephod. (6:14)
3. Scripture tells us that when his wife Michal saw this, "she despised him in her heart." (6:16)

B. The Scripture in 1 Chronicles tells us more about David's actions! (Read 1 Chronicles 15:25-28)

1. We find that David was not celebrating alone!

He was celebrating with all Israel. Was David joyful and exuberant? So was everyone else—nearly everyone except Michal, of course.

David was dressed in a **robe of fine linen and a linen ephod!** That was what Samuel used to wear as he ministered before the Lord. It was what the priests wore as they ministered in the tabernacle.

It appears that Michal was not angry with David for doing something wrong and thus standing out from the rest of the people.

She was angry with David for behaving like the people, the commoners, and looking like a lowly priest.

It appears that she was angry with David because he was not acting like a king as he was praising and worshipping God.

He had humbled himself. He had demeaned himself. He had lowered himself.

Michal rained on David's parade, by despising her husband and criticizing him for acting like less than a king.

III. DAVID'S REACTION TO HIS WIFE'S VERBAL ATTACK. (Vs 21-23)

David's words to his wife are strong and to us they may even seem harsh, but that is because they reflect the wickedness of Michal's heart.

David pointed out several things to his wife:

A. His conduct, which Michal found so disgusting, was "before the Lord." (6:21)

David's actions may have been seen by his wife, but they were not done for her benefit! They were done for God's benefit!

1. David was not performing for his wife.
2. David was not even performing for the crowd.
3. David was performing for the Lord.

His worship was not intended to please her.

We should be reminded of the words of the apostle Paul here: *Galatians 1:10* For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:3-6 "For our exhortation was not from deceit, nor from impurity, nor in guile; 4 But as we were allowed by God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, who trieth our hearts.

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5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: 6 Nor from men sought we glory, neither from you, nor yet from others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ."

Unfortunately, a lot of things that go by the name "**worship**" in our day and time has become nothing more than a **performance looking for the applause of men**. A performance is done primarily for an audience and not for God.

David's words to his wife could just as well apply to us. Worship should be "**before the Lord**," performed for His pleasure and for His approval, not for man's.

Far too much of what passes for worship today may be only an audience pleasing performance.

B. David would not be kept from celebrating, especially when the One Whom he was seeking to please was also the One Who had promoted him! (6:21)

Michal was disgusted because David was celebrating, because he was joyful. She was like all too many Christians today who seem to be saying, "*Wipe that smile off your face. Don't you know you're in church?*"

David was celebrating because he had much to celebrate. He was celebrating the Ark of God returning home! It would have been wrong to refuse to rejoice over that which gave God pleasure.

When God does something great in our midst, may we do things for His service joyfully, exuberantly, and enthusiastically!

There is no virtue in being somber all the time.

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There is no excuse for being somber when God Himself is rejoicing, when God is finding pleasure.

Paul tells us in *Romans 12:15* – *Rejoice with them that rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

Sadly, we are more like Michal than David when it comes to the joyful celebration of our God and His works! (We tend to find fault instead of partnering together in true praise and worship with those who are!)

C. David reminded his wife that she was acting like her father, and that her husband was the one God elevated as king in her father's place.

God exalted David above Saul, Michal's father. He made David king in Saul's place. He set Saul's entire household aside and started all over with David and his house. And here was Michal, taking her father's place.

Why did she disdain David so much, even though he was God's choice for Israel's king? Was it only because she was the daughter of her father.

Did it trouble her that David had won the hearts of the people, and that her husband refused to distance himself from those he ruled?

Instead of standing with her husband, as her brother Jonathan had done, she stood up against him. And in this, she was just like her father.

But David reminded her that God had set her father aside. And now we see that David likewise set Michal aside. She died childless!

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That had to be a source of great sorrow, sadness, and shame from what we know about how barren women were looked upon in that society! They would have viewed it as God's judgment being upon her!

D. David ruled over his people as a humble servant, and not as a tyrant.

Michal had basically despised and criticized David for not acting like a king. David's response appears to be that because God had made him king, he would be God's kind of king!

He would not be a king like Saul, her father, because God removed Saul, setting that kind of king aside! God raised up David to be a different kind of king, a servant-king!

If that was the kind of king Michal loathed, so be it!
David would be the kind of king God appointed him to be.

David identified with the people rather than distinguish himself from them! Even more, David dressed and worshiped God ***“as a priest”*** (6:14-19; 1 Chronicles 15:25-27). Did God not call Israel to be a ***“kingdom of priests”*** (Exodus 19:6)? In wearing a linen ephod, David exercised a legitimate form of priesthood.

Saul had been wrong for usurping Samuel's role as a priest and prophet (1 Samuel 13:8-9). It was wrong because it was disobedience to a clear command.

David was exercising his priesthood in a way that was pleasing to God. But in Michal's mind, this humble position was below the dignity of a king, and so she despised her husband for humbling himself before the people.

Conclusion

Michal was a type of the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees of our Lord's time who viewed themselves as “above the people”.

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They challenged Jesus about His authority. They looked upon our Lord with disdain because He associated with the lowly. Just as Michal bore no fruit (i.e., children), neither did the scribes and Pharisees. Those who would worship God must come to Him in humility, not in pride.

David was a type of Christ in our text and beyond. He was both a king and a priest. David laid aside his royal robes and humbled himself, just as our Lord laid aside His royal robes and humbled Himself (Philippians 2:5-8; see also John 13:1ff.).

David refused to allow any class distinctions when it came to worship. Godly worship will not tolerate classes of inferiors and superiors. The gospel equalizes all men. We are all sinners, condemned to God's eternal torment. And we are all saved apart from our own merits or works, solely on the basis of Christ's atoning work on the cross of Calvary. How then could David do anything but humble himself in worshiping God, even though his wife despised him for doing so?