

## Snow White...?

- Do you remember the story of Snow White and the wicked queen?
  - wicked queen: 'Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?'
  - mirror: 'Sorry, your majesty, it's no longer you, but Snow White!'
- 1 Samuel 18 is that kind of situation:
  - everyone took notice of David since Goliath thudded to the ground
  - but not everyone was as positive about it as Jonathan and the women of Israel!
  - Saul was jealous of David and marked him as someone to get rid of
  - David is to learn that there is a price to pay for popularity and being the best - and it all came to a head with a pop song!

## Pop Songs and Popularity

- In their celebratory songs, the girls danced and sang about Saul slaying his thousands and David his ten thousands:
  - they weren't making a political statement as Brown'ites in a Blair/Brown campaign
  - they weren't getting at Saul and intending to 'do him down'...
  - it was just that David had done so much for Israel!
  - but Saul was a bit like the prodigal son's elder brother - he had a sulk because he wasn't the best esteemed
  - do you remember how earlier Saul took the glory for what his son Jonathan did? (13:4)
- The pact between David and Jonathan didn't seem to help the situation, either:
  - the bond was not only one of friendship - it was a bond of brotherhood
  - Jonathan took off his princely robe and laid it on David - and his coat of armour, sword, bow and belt
  - in this act Jonathan was symbolically abdicating the throne in favour of David!
  - (even Saul prophetically did the same when he stripped off his robe in 19:24)
  - out of the bond between David and Jonathan, Jonathan was to preserve David's life in defiance against the murderous efforts of his father
- David's success is not because of David:
  - emphasis is very clearly on fact that David is successful because the Lord is with him
  - everyone it seems loves David - Jonathan does, Michal does, all Israel and Judah love David
  - all, that is, except Saul who fears and stands in awe of David
  - the Lord's beloved is envied and hated

## The good, the bad, and the ugly?

- Played out here is the basic warfare of God against evil:
  - (of which great David's greater son, Jesus himself, was to bear the full brunt)
  - it's not with Bush or Blair and their fight against terror
  - it's not with the Metropolitan Police anti-terror unit
- We side with the Lord Jesus Christ!
  - he has already faced it and won, although not fully applied yet
  - in our world today this ancient conflict is still raging, but siding with evil is a lost cause
  - the forces of evil will not triumph
  - (nor will those who aim to fight a war on terror ever win that war)
- Christ has already won the victory and promises an end to it all - a promise he (and he alone) can and will keep
- Saul seethed with jealousy, fear and hatred at David's increasing popularity:
  - his behaviour is a sure sign that the Holy Spirit has left him
  - resentment, envy, suspicion and bad behaviour are not fruits of the Spirit

- he who hates his brother is a murderer (1 John 3:15)
- **let us be very careful not to step into Saul's shoes** - and if we find ourselves in danger of doing so, stop, repent, go and restore relationship with our brother, deal with it rather than letting it fester!
- We know - **but David doesn't yet know** - what the situation is
  - when Saul twice hurls his dart/spear at David as he plays his harp, David doesn't 'twig' that Saul is not under some 'spell' from his moods and is just 'having a bad day'
  - Saul is fully aware of what he is doing
  - this is no insanity but an evil murderous design out of Saul's heart
- All sin is a kind of madness, in the sense that it flies in the face of inevitable destruction:
  - the wages of sin is death...
  - but our history as a race is of futile endeavours to turn this reality on its head
  - 'Long live death,' is the battle-cry of sin - 'eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die!'
  - we may scorn, or puzzle at, suicide bombers - **but sin is just as suicidal and drags down others to more sure destruction**
- Saul tried to remove David from court and from public gaze by promoting him to being a field commander in the army:
  - *(a sinful tactic David himself would use against Uriah, husband of Bathsheba, years later)*
  - it was counterproductive
- Next, Saul sought to bribe David:
  - with the promise of his eldest daughter in exchange for fighting 'the Lord's battles'
  - all the while looking forward to attending David's funeral
- David wouldn't know what lie behind being offered Michal's hand in marriage instead of Merab - there was method in Saul's madness
  - Michal was the bait in a trap - **but David wasn't meant to get her**
  - again, Saul thought it was a way that would save him from the messy bit - let the Philistines kill David
  - but Saul's plan backfired once more; David doubles the tally of the gruesome tokens and walks off with the prize and becomes Saul's son-in-law!

## Conclusion

- The Lord's favour towards David is stronger than Saul's malice
  - the forces of evil are no match for God's power and might
  - if God is for us who can be against us?
  - but we must, of course, be sure God is for us, and we have raised this question earlier in the series - are we obeying, as a strong indicator of our "God-orientation"?
  - the Lord was David's shade (**Psalm 121:5**)
  - is he ours?

### How does this apply?

- **so what?**