

POWER REVEALS YOUR HEART.

“We show what we are really like when we can do what we really want...power is like a mirror of the soul, a diagnostic tool which reveals what we are really like” – Alister McGrath¹

Leadership success...and danger

- David’s success continues to skyrocket as does King Saul’s **jealousy** – 1 Samuel 18:5 *And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.*
 - Learning to obey prepares us to lead.
- David **outshines** King Saul in the public eye – 18:6-9 *As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. ⁷ And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, “Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” ⁸ And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” ⁹ And Saul eyed David from that day on.*
 - Healthy leadership responds humbly when God gives the victory.
- Humble and **courageous** leadership **unifies** – 1 Samuel 18:12-16 *Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul. ¹³ So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. ¹⁴ And David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him. ¹⁵ And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.*

- King Saul continues to lose control and David continues to grow in influence – 1 Samuel 19-31
- King Saul finally falls on his own sword – 1 Samuel 31:4b *Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it.*
- David racks up an impressive streak of **victories** – 2 Samuel 8-10
- David and Bathsheba – 2 Samuel 11
- David's **own** words come back to haunt him – 2 Samuel 1:25 *How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!*
- David and Nathan – 2 Samuel 12
 - The mighty fall when they think they're above the battle.

Leadership insights

- 1) You're only one step away from **stupid**: Whatever sin promises, it's not worth it.
- 2) Stay with a "Who am I?" mentality and look out for a "Do you know who I am?" attitude.
- 3) Your response to the "Nathans" in your life sets your trajectory.
- 4) You're only one step away from the restoration process: Repentance.

¹ Alister E. McGrath, *Surprised by Meaning: Science, Faith, and How We Make Sense of Things* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), 84.