

## Daily Devotional, February 16, 2021

### “David His Ten Thousands”, (1 Samuel 18:7-8, NKJV)

*“So the women sang as they danced, and said: “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.” Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?””*  
(1 Samuel 18:7-8)

David had defeated Goliath, the Philistine champion, and this victory was followed by a routing of the Philistine army by Israel (1 Samuel 17:48-52). *“As they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistines”* (1 Samuel 18:6), the women of Israel celebrated in the streets, ascribing the great military victory to David. At this time, however, Saul was still the king, and he resented the attention being given to David. From this time forward, King Saul would be consumed with a jealous rage over David, and it robbed him of his peace and mental health. He feared that David would end up getting all the attention and the power, and that he would lose all, even the kingdom. Eventually these things did happen, but only in God’s time and according to His plan. Saul chose to conduct himself dishonorably rather than honorably. It would have been better for him to rejoice that Israel now had another strong leader beside himself, and in so doing the nation would have been even stronger for it.

Rather than the mind of Saul, let the mind of John the Baptist be in you when another is being raised up by the Lord. *“He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all”* (John 3:29-31).

Resolve to do the following, and without bitterness or jealousy. If someone receives a promotion at work, congratulate them. If someone gets better grades in school than you, rejoice. If someone is used by God instead of you to save a soul, rejoice with the angels insofar as a soul is saved. If someone preaches a great sermon, or teaches the Bible exceedingly well, rejoice, for God’s kingdom plan is being promoted on earth. And if someone excels you, or seems to excel you, in anything, respond so honorably that the blessing for all is doubled by your godly conduct.