

## Despising The Undignified: The Story of Michal *By Pastor Anison Samuel*

### Reading: 2 Samuel 6:16-23

It was the ark of the Lord which went ahead of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses (amongst others) that was responsible for initiating the fulfillment of their promises. There was no greater moment for Israel than when the ark arrived and rested in Jerusalem, yet at the very gate, Michal looked upon David in disgust, as he wore a linen ephod and danced and worshipped before the Lord in unbridled passion. Unbeknownst of his wife's indignation, David rushed home to bless his family after gifting his people with cakes of dates and meat. As he stood before her, Michal appeared more as the daughter of King Saul than the wife of David. Her resentment caused God to close her womb so that she would not produce duplicates of herself. Yet her husband who danced like a fool before the Lord produced a lineage connected to the eternal King of kings! At the gate, decisions and destinies are made. We must enter this gate, worshipping. Instead of critiquing the worship team, we all should be so engrossed in worship that we focus more on the move and power of God rather than any flaws because we too are flawed before the presence of the Lord!

Throughout the entire chapter, David was always referred to as 'David' until Michal referred to him as 'King David'. Michal was effectively reminding David that before he became King, he was a mere shepherd boy. Therefore, as King, he should follow protocol and decorum. Michal believed that behavior should reflect titles but for David, his stature was secondary. Instead, the Lord God Almighty was central. It is not about us, dignity, stature, who we are and where we come from; it is about the Lord! That's why David said, "It was the Lord before whom I danced." From a rational stance, Michal was correct to insist on proper protocol and politeness but worship is not about this church or the person sitting next to you; it is about the King of kings and the Lord of lords!

Michal connected the return of God's ark in a fleshly and secular way. It was most perverted and sensual of her to misinterpret such a sacred moment. Just as Michal said, "You did this for your own fleshly purpose", many today condemn the sincere actions of those who are genuinely touched when God moves. We must be very careful when we speak of sacred things.

Michal's marriage to David could not boast of romance. Instead it was an alliance made for political purposes. When David was forced into the wilderness and hunted down by Saul, Michal never followed or stood by her husband because for her, life revolved around the palace and her royal title. Michal never once ventured into the wilderness where her husband was fighting for his vision and God given promise.

Michal "despised David in her heart". It can be said that Michal once loved David but after some time, Saul married her off to another man. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that Michal refused or fought against this new union. She was now dangerously living as a woman with no heart.

Situations in Michal's life had caused deadness in her heart. When a heart is not engaged and is deadened, it becomes a putrefied sewer for all maggots of hell. If a person despises and speaks against worship, somewhere their heart needs to be healed. One cannot enter God's courts with bitterness.

Criticism is the hallmark of an observer but true participants do not have time to critique others. As Israel's greatest moment was taking place, Michal was hiding in her room and peeking out of a window. She should have been in the front lines of the procession along with her husband. We need some of our people to be delivered from the Michal spirit. Do not hide and insulate yourself in the comfort of your bedroom and criticize when God is moving.

God specifically chose David for something much bigger than family and marriage. David had kingdom purposes to fulfill but for Michal, marriage was simply a cultural act done out of tradition or for political gains. She failed to connect her marriage to the greater purposes of God and so a woman whose lineage should have spanned eternity, suddenly became a footnote.

On the other hand, Abigail (one of David's many wives) looked at David and said, "I know you will be the king. I know there is a promise over your life that will be fulfilled." For that reason, the sure mercies of God were upon her life. We need to pray that the people who walk with us will understand that life is connected to kingdom purposes. Wives and husbands must look at each other and say, "I know there is a future in you." That is how the foundation of Christian faith is built.

When Michal helped David escape out of the window, most scholars agree that she placed an image of a heathen god. Only two other people in the Bible secretly carried idols (one being Rachel). As both of them entered the gate, one was instantly killed and the other became barren and lost any hope of a future.

David faced Michal and said, "It was not your father who made me king. When I was just a shepherd boy, it was my God who lifted me up." My worship is not based on other people's opinions. We will not be directed by public opinion or led by wealthy men. Those will not harness our identity towards worship. We are here today, only because of God. Every spirit of prejudice be gone and every dead heart, come alive in the name of Jesus! While you are worshiping, the gates are opening!