

Joyful Life Bible Studies

Women of the Word

Michal

Lesson 14

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review last week's lesson on Lydia. In what way is Lydia an example for you today?

2. Our focus this week is on Michal. In I and II Samuel we find several interesting word pictures of this woman. Use the following verses for an introduction to Michal. Write one thing you learn about her from:
 - a. 1 Samuel 14:49
 - b. 1 Samuel 18:27b
 - c. 1 Samuel 19:11,12
 - d. 2 Samuel 6:16

3. Begin your study by writing a prayer expressing your deepest desire and greatest need in relationship to your homework. Thank the Lord for hearing and answering your prayer.

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
2 Timothy 3:16,17 NKJV

SECOND DAY: Read 1 Samuel 18:20-28

1. Our study of Michal begins with a young woman who was in love. View this in I Samuel 18:2(). Who was she in love with?

2. The personalities in this love story are intriguing. Read 1 Samuel 18:21-28. Briefly describe what these verses reveal about:
 - a. Saul

 - b. David

 - c. Michal

Challenge: Read 1 Samuel 18:1-16 to discover the background of Saul's hatred for David. Give a brief report of your findings.

3. Michal's father attempted to use his daughter to implement a wicked scheme. We don't know if she was aware of her father's ulterior motives. We do know that David accepted Saul's challenge and willingly risked his life to pay the dowry for his bride and came out unscathed. What does 1 Samuel 18:27b declare happened next?
 - a. *When the king realized how much the LORD was with David and how much Michal loved him, he became even more afraid of him, and he remained David's enemy for the rest of his life (1 Samuel 18:28,29 NLT). Think about the intensity of Saul's hatred for David. What affect might this have had on her marriage?*

4. *Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David (1 Samuel 18:28).* What do you see in your study today that confirms this?

FOURTH DAY: Read 1 Samuel 25:44, 2 Samuel 3:13-16

1. View 1 Samuel 25:44 to discover what happened to Michal after David escaped her father Saul's trap. What do you see?

a. Unfortunately, when Michal saved her husband, she lost him. They experienced a forced separation when David became a fugitive from her father's murderous wrath and she became a victim. How would knowing the Lord and His character have helped her to gain and maintain perspective?

(1.) Share a time in your life when knowing the Lord and His character helped you.

2. Many years passed between 1 Samuel 25:44 and 2 Samuel 3:13-16. King Saul, Michal's father had died and David, as God's appointed successor, was in process of taking control over the entire land of Israel. What did David want according to 2 Samuel 3:13b,14?

a. How would you describe the scene of 2 Samuel 3:15,16?

3. The Bible doesn't reveal Michal's thoughts or feelings when she was taken from Phaltiel (Phalti) and reclaimed by David. It is interesting that it does record Phaltiel's reaction. What does this suggest about her?

a. God saw the pain in this situation. He sees you in your situation today. How does this minister to you?

*He knows my name.
He knows my every thought.
He sees each tear that falls,
and He hears me when I call.
-selected*

FIFTH DAY: Read 2 Samuel 6:12-16,20-23

1. Today our focus is on the last picture we have of Michal. Read 2 Samuel 6:16. At a time when everyone should have been joyfully celebrating, thanking and praising God for return of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (see 2 Samuel 6:12-15), what was Michal reaction?
 - a. What does verse 16 reveal about Michal? (see also I Chronicles 15:29)

2. According to 2 Samuel 6:20-22 what happened when *David returned to bless his household*?
 - a. Pause and think about Michal's behavior. What might have been the influences in her life that caused her to react as she did?

3. Record from 2 Samuel 6:23 the tragic results of her attitude and actions that day.
 - a. Michal became physically barren. Ungodly attitudes can lead to spiritual barrenness. How is this a warning for us today?

Challenge: Briefly explain who the *sons of Michal* were that are mentioned in 2 Samuel 21:8b and why this is not a contradiction of 2 Samuel 6:23.

4. The relationships in Michal's life always seemed to end in tragedy. Although some situations were out of her control, she **was** responsible for how she handled her trials, even as we are today. We all have a choice whether or not to trust God. How does your faith in the Lord help you through distressing times or difficult relationships?
 - a. Share a scripture that has been particularly meaningful during a hard time in your life.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. This week we have studied Michal, a woman with strengths and weaknesses. What can we learn from her:
 - a. strengths

 - b. weaknesses

2. What important warnings are there for you from the story of Michal?

3. What have you learned this week about choices women can make even in the midst of stressful trials?

4. Michal's life demonstrates that someone who begins well doesn't always finish well. What lesson is there in this for you?

*Jesus draw me close, closer Lord to Thee.
Let the world around me fade away.
Jesus draw me close, closer Lord to Thee.
For I desire to worship and obey.
-selected*