

# No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

## Keys for this Series:

1. Success can be dangerous because of what it can do to you and to those around you.
2. Very few people handle success and failure equally well.

## The Rational

One great asset in success is a true friend.

- A true friend will talk straight to you.  
*“Jonathan was very fond of David and warned him, “My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you.”* - 1 Samuel 19:1,2
- A true friend will talk straight to others on your behalf.  
*“Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father...”* - 1 Samuel 19:4
- Your greatest true friend is the Lord!  
*“I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart...”* - Acts 13:22

One great asset with an “enemy” is reason. *Saul was told . . .*

*“Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The LORD won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?”* - 1 Samuel 19:4-5

1. David hasn't hurt you.
2. David has actually helped you.
3. David helped Israel.
4. David's victory made you glad.
5. It would be wrong to hurt an innocent man.

Saul realized his foolishness and vowed to spare David.

*“Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: “As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death.”* - 1 Samuel 19:6

## The Irrational

David's continued success caused more jealousy in Saul. And the evil spirit shows up then. Once more he tries to kill David.

*“Once more war broke out, and David went out and fought the Philistines. He struck them with such force that they fled before him. But an evil spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the harp, Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall.”* - 1 Samuel 19:8-10

Note that David didn't change his habits because of his success. He was still playing his harp for Saul.

David and his wife know that there were no more chances. (Ps. 59)

*“That night David made good his escape. Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, “If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed.” So Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped. Then Michal took an idol and laid it on the bed, covering it with a garment and putting some goats' hair at the head. When Saul sent the men to capture David, Michal said, “He is ill.” Then Saul sent the men back to see David and told them, “Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him.” But when the men entered, there was the idol in the bed, and at the head was some goats' hair. Saul said to Michal, “Why did you deceive me like this and send my enemy away so that he escaped?” Michal told him, “He said to me, ‘Let me get away. Why should I kill you?’”* - 1 Samuel 19:10-17

*Why an idol and why a lie?*

*“I will give her to him,” he thought, “so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.”* - 1 Samuel 18:21

## The Refuge

*“When David had fled and made his escape, he went to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went to Naioth and stayed there. Word came to Saul: “David is in Naioth at Ramah”; so he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, the Spirit of God came upon Saul's men and they also prophesied. Saul was told about it, and he sent more men, and they prophesied too. Saul sent men a third time, and they also prophesied. Finally, he himself left for Ramah and went to the great cistern at Secu. And he asked, “Where are Samuel and David?” “Over in Naioth at Ramah,” they said. So Saul went to Naioth at Ramah. But the Spirit of God came even upon him, and he walked along prophesying until he came to Naioth. He stripped off his robes and also prophesied in Samuel's presence. He lay that way all that day and night. This is why people say, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”* - 1 Samuel 19:18-24

*If the king were trying to kill you, where would you run?*

David ran to the prophet that had anointed him.

- Maybe he wanted to affirm his anointing.
- Maybe he wanted to seek God's will.

But what David learned is that his greatest asset was the Lord!  
*(God stepped in to spare David “His way.” vs. 23)*

## Lessons We Learn

1. Remember that your success often causes problems for others.
2. Understand that you can do the “right things” and still receive hatred or harsh reactions from others.
3. In the midst of success, surround yourself with true friends.  
*(People don't normally fall into sin in bad times but in good!)*
4. Trust in the Lord and in His ability to make things right in His way and in His time.

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