

David's Success (1 Samuel 18–2 Samuel 10)

Most leaders have to deal with success. Human success can have many good consequences and even be a means for God to work out his plans. However, any success comes from God's grace alone and the mere fact that God is blessing our ministry does not mean we're doing things right. Success can even be *despite* what we do.

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I. God gives David king a great and lasting kingdom

A. Rapid promotion, constant deliverance from Saul (1 Samuel 18–26)

1. 1 Samuel 18:1–5
2. 1 Samuel 23:24b–29
3. Don't credit yourself with your success

B. Rivals removed (1 Samuel 31–2 Samuel 5)

C. Reign established (2 Samuel 6–10)

II. Even though

A. David's an ordinary person

1. 'Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?' (1 Samuel 18:18)
2. 'Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?' (2 Samuel 7:18)
3. Don't forget your beginnings

B. David has opponents

1. Military: Saul (1 Samuel 31); Abner (2 Samuel 3); Ishbosheth (2 Samuel 2–4); Hadadezer (2 Samuel 8)
2. Schemers: Amalekite (2 Samuel 1); Joab (2 Samuel 3); Baanah and Rechab (2 Samuel 4)
3. Mockers: Nabal (1 Samuel 25); Michal (2 Samuel 6); Hanun (2 Samuel 10)
4. Don't fear opponents

C. David won't attack the Lord's anointed one

1. 1 Samuel 24:1–22 and 26:1–12 surround 25:1–44
2. Don't try and bring about God's kingdom your way

D. David wobbles

1. 1 Samuel 27:1–2 and 29:6–10
2. Don't try to stay safe by compromise

III. Lessons about Christ