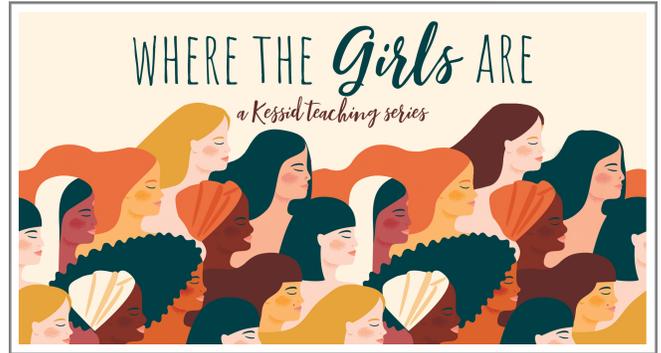


**"CHURCH IT UP"****Date:** August 1, 2021**Speaker:** Danny Clinton**This message is going to feel a bit one-sided. But that's on purpose:**

- Today, I want to talk primarily to men... I want you to try and stay with me.
- This may feel a bit bare-knuckle to some... Welcome to Kessid, bro!

**My context today will be within the story and the person of David...**

- This is because I believe David is the Man most Christian men want to be like... "David is a Giant Killer" ... And as Men, we love the idea of that!
- Sermon after Sermon has been preached about this instance in David's life...
- ... I think it's because of a specific sequence of dramatic "Overcomings."

1. At the beginning, David is described as this kind of powerless servant, on a mission to support those stronger than him. – *"I'm just a regular guy!"*

-*"He Overcomes a Sense of Insignificance."*

2. He then sees and calls out a Dangerous Problem. – *"Who is this Giant?"*

-*"He Overcomes the pressure to Conform to be Respected."*

3. He commits to addressing this problem just as he is. – *"I can't wear this Armor!"*

-*"He Overcomes the cliché definition of what's needed to be powerful!"*

4. He goes and stands alone against the odds. – *"Kills Goliath!"*

-*"He Overcomes his own inadequacies to face an ever-present danger to those he loved."*

It's all these qualities that eventually lead David to be the King that he was.

The End.

**But you're probably wondering... What does this message have to do with our current series, "Where the girls are"?**

- Like... Where even are the girls in this passage?

- That's a great question! Let's see if we can find some...

(Vs) 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:24-27 – “All the men of Israel, when they saw the man (Goliath), fled from him and were much afraid. <sup>25</sup> And the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely, he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel.” <sup>26</sup> And David said to the men who stood by him, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” <sup>27</sup> And the people answered him in the same way, “So shall it be done to the man who kills him.”

- Ahhh, there she is!
- The only woman mentioned in this celebrated story is the one to be given as a trophy to the winner...

### Let's "Church this one up" a bit and say... "Women are to be Prized!"

- Let's see if we can find some more women...

(Vs) 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 18:6-9 – “As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. <sup>7</sup> And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, “Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousand, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” <sup>9</sup> And Saul eyed David from that day on.”

- So, here the women and their praises are mentioned as something that is to be fiercely coveted as prestige bringing!

### Let's "Church it up" and say... "The attention of Women brings Prestige!"

- This attention is of such great importance to Saul that not getting this, literally breaks his relationship with David, never to be recovered from.

### Hold, on! Hold, on... I found another Woman.

(Vs) 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 18:17-19 – Then Saul said to David, “Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the Lord's battles.” For Saul thought, “Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him.” <sup>18</sup> And David said to Saul, “Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?” <sup>19</sup> But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.”

- Here we see a Woman being used as a tool to manipulate and then punish.

## **"Church it on up!" ... "Women are incredibly Useful!"**

- Note:** It's important to notice that up until that point, David is still doing his very best not to play along and denies this offer, but all that is about to change...
- Because, of course, there is yet one last mention of a Woman in this story!

*(Vs) 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 18:20-23 – Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. <sup>21</sup> Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time,<sup>[b]</sup> "You shall now be my son-in-law." <sup>22</sup> And Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in private and say, 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king's son-in-law.'" <sup>23</sup> And Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David said, "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?"*

- So David, still not wanting to play in this terrible game, says, "No thank you." That is until this next part...

*(Vs) 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 18:24-27 – And the servants of Saul told him, "Thus and so did David speak." <sup>25</sup> Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.'" Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. <sup>26</sup> And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. Before the time had expired...*

- Suddenly not because of Love, but out of pure spite David says, "Alright! I'll buy your daughter this way!"

*(Vs) 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 18:27-29 – "...David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife. <sup>28</sup> But when Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him, <sup>29</sup> Saul was even more afraid of David. So, Saul was David's enemy continually."*

- Here, we finally see David lean into the broken system of his culture.

## **Churchin' it up... "A Woman's love should be earned."**

- Nothing better than the cherished love of a 200-foreskin woman!
- There's a woman who knows her value!

**From here on out, you will see the damage this part of David's life brings both to him and those he loves.**

- He will start out winning battle after battle the way God has asked him to, by courageously killing the "dangerous giants" around him through the Lord's strength...

- ...Only to eventually compromise, and so lean in over and over towards his culture's broken system, deciding to take the easier route of just marrying his way into peaceful relations with the neighboring kingdoms around him.
- In this way, "The Women in David's Life would become living Contracts."

**You may say, "Yes, but this is just how things were done."**

- And I would respond that when we look at Scripture... we are called to look at all that it is saying, about how we choose to live and treat those around us. –

**"Culture doesn't dictate Truth."**

**Eventually David finds himself at the height of his power and prestige...**

- One day, he's standing on his roof top and sees a woman bathing upon her roof.
- Because of the choices David made earlier in his life... because of the culture that said it was okay to see Women as Prizes to be awarded, and Objects to be Used... Because they brought prestige, and their Love was something you could just Purchase...
- David didn't see a person before him. He saw an object he wanted. So, he just took her...
- Side Note:** You aren't going to hear me talk about the culture of "roof top" bathing, and the responsibility women should have to protect the integrity of all the surrounding Kings leering at them from atop their padded balconies!

**And just in case you are still unclear who's driving this situation...**

- Eventually this woman becomes pregnant. And, so long story short...King David just goes ahead and has her husband killed!
- I mean you gotta protect your interests, right?

**Eventually, God speaks up in David's life... He harshly corrects him, and David Repents...**

- ... But the marks have been left upon David's heart. And so, He will struggle with this issue, the disrespecting and devaluing of women, for the rest of his life...
- His own Son, Absalom, will turn against him when his sister Tamar, David's Daughter, is raped by their half-brother, another son of David...
- The Bible says that although David was angry, he did nothing... He did nothing for his daughter.
- Can you see why? She also is an object. She also is of little value.

**And here's perhaps the biggest consequence...**

- There's a statement within therapeutic circles that... "Dysfunction is Systemic."
- And, you can't see that played out more clearly than through the life of David.

**David eventually has another son to rule and become King.**

**This man's name is Solomon...**

- Scripture teaches us that Solomon was the Wisest man to ever have lived... He had divine Wisdom from The Lord poured into his life...

**And yet... Scripture also teaches...**

*(Vs) 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 11:1-4 – Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, <sup>2</sup> from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. <sup>3</sup> He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. <sup>4</sup> For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God.*

**“Even the wisest man to ever live could not break from the systemic dysfunction taught to him by his culture and father.”**

- But do not be dismayed... For...

**“In the same way that Dysfunction is Systemic, so is Health.”**

**We are going to speak more about this in the coming weeks... But it all starts with deciding not to “Church it up!”**

- It will take more than discipline and hope more than Love or Wisdom. It will take more than this to break the cycles we as men have been taught.
- It will take seeing our daughters and the struggle they face. And, seeing our sons and the challenges to conform pressed in upon them...
- It will take you and I seeing that we are part of the problem, and so deciding to be part of the solution.
  - “Overcoming our own Sense of Insignificance.”
  - “Overcoming the pressure to Conform to be Respected.”
  - “Overcoming the cliché definition of what’s needed to be powerful!”
  - “Overcoming our own inadequacies so that we too can help face an ever-present danger to those we love.”
- Maybe in this way we can finally help in Overcoming this roaring Giant the women in the room have already been killing on their own for years!