

“PROCESSING PROMOTION”

1 Sa 17:57–18:4 1 Sa 23:16–18

David/Jonathan – Jonathan in line to be king, David is a rising star – Jonathan supports him and helps him, and David even surpasses him and becomes king. Yet all through story, Jonathan keeps proper perspective on promotion (or lack thereof) If going/survive long term, have to process promotion correctly.

I. THE NEED FOR PROMOTION

A. Simple Fact: Ministry will at times involve Promotion

1. As needs arise, doors open, men develop – men are promoted in ministry
 - a. Inside the church: New leaders, new ministries, changes/adjustments/replacements
 - b. Outside the church: New cities, pastoral changes

B. Many Reasons/Causes for Promotion:

1. **Gaining new ground:** Always need to be reaching into new areas/cities/nations –
 - a. *Need men to preach gospel: SO men are promoted into ministry in order to take gospel into new regions*
2. **Process of attrition:** Unfortunately we occasionally lose men – need to be replaced
3. **Enabling destiny of others:** Other men being moved on to other ministries:
 - a. Overseas/etc – need to plug the gaps
4. **Development of men:** If going to have leaders, need to give men leadership –
 - a. Promotion is a way to stretch men
 - b. Moved into ministry not because you’re ‘all that’ but because you can be enlarged through it

C. What we see in our Scripture: God is involved in promotion

1. David was appointed King - but it was God’s choice: Samuel involved in process, but was still the will of God

II. PITFALLS OF PROMOTION

A. Danger of Promotion: Not everyone handles it well

1. Times of change/transition are when many men blow up and/or make mistakes

B. For the Promoted:

1. **Pitfall of Pride:** Sometimes a man promoted becomes ‘too big for his britches’
 - a. *1 Ki 12:13 Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him;*
 1. Rehoboam just a youth, but promotion caused his chest to puff out, and began to demand respect
 - b. Disciples given position now wants to be ‘in charge’ and order people around – feels superior
 1. Danger is lose credibility, will eventually lose ministry, effectiveness, & possibly destiny
2. **Pitfall of Self-Validation:** Some promoted think ‘see God loves me best!’
 - a. Believe it’s a stamp/approval on their entire lives
 1. Also men hiding things mistakenly don’t deal with them, think promotion excuses their failure or lack

C. For Those Not Promoted:

1. Some view this as rejection: *Pastor doesn’t love me; Loves him more; He’s playing favorites*
2. Extreme: Viewing lack of promotion (being passed over) as a sign of no worth/value – God has given up
 - a. Many men have flushed destiny because they weren’t the 1st in line – others went out before them

III. PROCESSING PROMOTION

A. Important God has a plan in Promotion: This is not an arbitrary, self-will, favorites – God’s will is always at work

1. God is bigger: Regardless of the personnel involved, God is bigger than all of us – can trust Him TX: God was
 - a. Involved in entire process – even though took years – was all according to God’s plan
 - b. Man with a right heart can/will be guided into his destiny according to God’s plan
2. We seek God’s will → Every decision of promotion/change bathed in much prayer, seeking God

B. Key to Processing Promotion: Keeping Perspective

1. Being promoted ALWAYS involves stretching – stepping into bigger shoes means growth, work, change
 - a. This is NOT God telling you that you’ve made it
2. Not everyone promoted at the same time/speed/rate: NOT a sign of your lack of worth
 - a. Might be practical: Can only promote certain number men at a time
 - b. Might be spiritual: God is developing certain things in you/others that will take some time
 - c. Might be tactical: God could be pushing one ahead and saving another for a specific opportunity

C. Must be willing to serve God w/whole heart whether we’re the king or not

1. Jonathan didn’t change his service/attitude depending on his position relative to the throne –
 - a. He just served the kingdom
2. Need men that will serve KOG/church regardless of their position/title