
Encounter(ing) God

3 Responses to God's Presence Part 13

Steve Berger

April 14, 2019

Review... Truly encountering God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- 1) Contrast “Knowing About” and “Encountering” God
 - a. Knowing – *aware and informed*
 - b. Encountering – *revealing (seeing) and transforming – MEETING!*
 - c. The image of God you carry around in your heart and mind affects the way you live your daily life.

Moses says, “Show me Your glory” – God shows Moses His character!

If we want to know what's glorious about God – it is Who He is!

Exodus 34:6-8

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." *So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.*

Responding to God's Presence – review

- Moses encountered God, made haste, bowed to the ground, worshiped!
- 3 Responses to God's Presence from 2 Samuel 6; the Ark; God's Presence
 - **Irreverent familiarity producing death** – Uzza – *two weeks ago*
 - **Passionate worship producing blessing** – King David – *last week*
 - **Mockery producing barrenness** – Mi'chal – *today*

Religious spirit that wants to quench worship

Question – *Are you aware there is a **religious spirit** that wants to **quench, silence, and condemn genuine, passionate worship of God?***

Answer – We see it in the events surrounding Palm Sunday. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem where He fulfills the ancient scriptures, arrives on the very day prophesied over 500 years earlier, and allows public recognition and worship for the first time...

- The crowds shout, “Hosanna to the Son of David, Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.”
- **Luke 19:37-40** – The Pharisees say, “Rebuke your disciples.” Jesus says, “If they became quiet, the stones would cry out.”

- **Matthew 21:15-16** — The religious leaders become *indignant*, “Jesus, do you hear?”
- **John 12:19** — They say to each other, “We’re accomplishing nothing, the whole world is going after Him.”

It is a fact that the quenching, silencing, condemning spirit didn’t originate with them — it existed 1,000 years before that — in King David’s wife, Mi’chal.

Mi’chal’s response to God’s Presence and King David

- **2 Samuel 6:16-23**

Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. So, they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So, all the people departed, everyone to his house. Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" So, David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore, I will play music before the LORD. And I will be even more undignified than this and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor." Therefore, Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

Question — *What was this woman’s problem? What was this spirit she was operating in?*

Answer — We must look into her background. We’ll see her, see others, maybe see ourselves? Repent...

Mi’chal’s background

- David has defeated Goliath, favor, fame, upon him. King Saul hates David with a murderous spirit, and seeks his demise, wants him dead.
- **1 Samuel 18:20-21**
Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. So Saul said, “I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” Therefore Saul said to David a second time, “You shall be my son-in-law today.”

Mi’chal

1. **Loves** — **1 Samuel 18:20,28** — “loves” him, as much as she knows how — self-serving love.
2. **Snares** — **1 Samuel 18:21** — serious root character issue; Saul knows she’ll (snare) harm David.
Saul keeps trying to kill David, sends killers to David and Mi’chal’s house...
 - **1 Samuel 19:11-13**
Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David's

wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped. And Michal took an image and laid it in the bed, put a cover of goats' hair for his head, and covered it with clothes.

3. **Saves — 1 Samuel 19:12** — sounds good, but totally self-serving — she's the wife of the king.

4. **Images — 1 Samuel 19:13**

- “teraphim” is not your normal idol, it’s a human likeness to aid in the worship of Yahweh — it’s forbidden, sinful, unnecessary, common. King Josiah destroyed in **2 King 23:24**
- Mi’chal has at least one in her house, ready to cover with goat hair and pretend it’s David.
- She has a teraphim because she’s *religious*, but not intimate with Yahweh herself, not encountering Him personally. She uses a forbidden likeness of man, possibly a family member, her father, Saul?
- These were objects of worship that tied its owner to inheritance rights.

Deception works at first, killers come in, she tells them, “Look he’s sick in bed.” But Saul demands David be brought to him, and the trick is revealed.

- **1 Samuel 19:17**

Then Saul said to Michal, “Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?” And Michal answered Saul, “He said to me, ‘Let me go! Why should I kill you?’”

5. **Deceives — 1 Samuel 19:17** — She learned deception from Saul; he promised David his daughter Merab as wife, but gave him Mi’chal. She had watched an ungodly, deceiver for years, then did it herself.

6. **Lies — 1 Samuel 19:17** — David said to me, “Why should I kill you?” He never said it!

- Blaming and impugning others to save face; shielding self by damaging David’s reputation.
- “Loved” David enough to aid in escape — but not enough to take the blame, self-serving.

**Mi’chal is a self-serving, character-flawed, religious, deceiving, lying, witch.
Give her time and opportunity and her witchcraft will rear its devilish head.
She may make Jezebel look like a catch.**

The saga continues, David is on the run from Saul for over a decade; Mi’chal gets married to another man; Saul dies; David is undisputed King; wants Mi’chal back; they are reunited; the Ark gets returned in 2 Samuel 6; David worships; and Mi’chal sees her opportunity to work her demonic magic...

“We never seem to be so near meeting the devil
as when we have just met with our God.”¹
~ C.H. Spurgeon

7. **Looks down through the window — 2 Samuel 6:16; 1 Chronicles 15:29**

- love the symbolism of her looking down — that’s what her type does, looks down on folks.

“No doubt, there are particularly nice and dainty people who will censure God’s chosen
if they live wholly to His praise, and they will call them eccentric...
from the window of their superiority they look down upon us.”²
~ C.H. Spurgeon

¹ Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit: Sermons, Parts 393-404* (Passmore & Alabaster, 1888)

² *ibid*

- Having zero experience and encounter with God, they can't imagine anyone being so joyful in His Presence. Having zero understanding of what someone has been through, they condemn their extravagant praise.

Interesting — *the same window she helped David escape through earlier — now becomes the window she looks down upon him from. These people seize whatever window of opportunity they can to do their deeds!*

8. Despises David in her heart

- **2 Samuel 6:16** — Is anyone shocked? She disesteems him, considers him vile and worthless.

Listen — *by demonizing others, Mi'chals of today justify their actions. "David deserves to be treated this way! ... And it breaks my heart..."*

9. Mocks — 2 Samuel 6:20

- **2 Samuel 6:20**
Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"
- Sarcasm, insecurity, condemnation- unholy trinity of the unregenerate.

Listen — This issue of a condemning, religious spirit in the church was addressed by the great Dallas Willard in his classic book *A Divine Conspiracy*. With a play on words from **2 Corinthians 3:9**, "a ministry of condemnation," he says:

"I have observed many good people who seem to feel a positive obligation to condemn others, and in some cases they do it without anger or contempt, even with some degree of sorrow and compassion. Yet the effects of condemnation remain the same. It remains a stinging attack, a shocking assault upon the one condemned."³
~ Dallas Willard

**Condemning someone is evil enough,
cloaking it in phony Christian compassion, care, or concern is even more devilish!**

Question — *How is Mi'chal's life summarized?*

10. Barren — 2 Samuel 6:23

- **2 Samuel 6:23**
Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

³ Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God* (HarperCollins Publishers, 2014)

Summary

*This **Mi'chal religious spirit** 1) does not birth the fruit of the Spirit, 2) it does not develop the character of God, 3) it does not expand the Kingdom of Jesus. **All it does is produce spiritual barrenness in its disciples.***

If any of this Mi'chal religious spirit lies within you...

- ~ confess it
- ~ repent
- ~ ask and receive forgiveness
- ~ and walk in a new-found grace toward others.

You'll be glad you did — and so will the others you've been condemning.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Saul want his daughter Mi'chal to marry David, even though he hated him?
2. What is a "teraphim?" What does Mi'chal's possession of one say about her relationship with Yahweh?
3. Have you known anyone who has censured God's people who are living joyfully and praising Him extravagantly?
4. Was the condemnation done in anger and contempt, or was it cloaked with some degree of phony compassion?
5. Can you identify any of this kind of Mi'chal religious spirit in yourself?

NOTES