



No Growth - Fame

And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.

Matthew 9:26

Favour - Proverbs 13:15

Attentive - Luke 19:48

Monitor - Job 7:12

Entertain - Hebrews 13:2

When fame is mentioned, the celebrity is the first thing that comes to mind. Success can be achieved without being on screen or receiving public awareness. Not only actors or actresses on a show receive recognition, but anyone who did something amazing as inventing something, a unique idea, an extraordinary situation development can make those around you be in awe. Jesus did something when the ruler's daughter was raised in Matthew nine, verses twenty-three to twenty-six, and the people did not even acknowledge or pay attention to Him. "But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose. And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land," as in verses twenty-five to twenty-six. Fame. Is it good? What Jesus Christ did for the ruler's daughter in raising her back to normal from being deceased is known as a miracle. The people in the ruler's house did not even notice Him when he entered. "He said unto them, Give place:

for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn."

The ruler's house had "minstrels" there, with a crowd of real or hired mourners, raising their wailing cries. Therefore, God had to get past the unbelievers who were active in their unbelief to get to the daughter of the ruler. The attendees laughed at Him to the point of disbelief. Jesus had to ask for space so He could get to her closely. The people initially were so caught up in their natural ways that they could not resonate with the Supernatural One.

Fame can have favour. However, it all depends on what that person is famous for. Is it for something good that could help and encourage others, or not, is the question. Fame can create a following of people monitoring your every move, influencing them to mimic or consider the things you do that may or may not be a good thing. Fame can make a person acceptable to people, whether in good ways or bad.

David in the Old Testament obtained favour from the Lord and was declared a man after God's own heart in Acts thirteen, verse twenty-two, "And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will." Part of why David is called a man after God's own heart is that he had absolute faith in God. Another reason David was a man after God's own heart is that he absolutely loved God's Law. David received favour for his ability to play the harp, which was one of the many gifts he had, especially praising the Lord with musical instruments. However, he was appointed several times by Saul to play sometimes to help him be refreshed from an evil spirit he wrestled with. David received favour for defeating Goliath, the giant of the Philistines, who

was a champion from that camp, as in First Samuel seventeen, verse four. When Saul saw what David did to the giant, he asked for an inquiry. "And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. And Saul said to him, Whose son art thou, thou young man? And David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite," as in verses fifty-seven to fifty-eight, of the same chapter. The next chapter, in the first two verses, illustrates what fame with favour will do as it did for David. "And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house."

Fame can draw so much attention from those who are attentive. People who follow famous individuals are not familiar with what they do, which they have not seen, by anyone else. David in First Samuel eighteen humbly went about doing things as required, but continued to gain more fame with attention from many different people, as in verses five to six. "And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants. And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick."

Although fame can create much attention, it can also stir up strife with others who go too far with close examination. Saul, who inquired of David and became a fan of David, turned foe in verses seven through nine. "And the women answered one

another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward."

Fame can cause those who follow you to monitor your every move, and so sad these days that people will go so far to continue to audit someone famous. Today, people who rise to fame are not as free as they once were. There are groups that are well-known as paparazzi, independent photographers who take pictures of high-profile people, such as actors, musicians, athletes, politicians, and other celebrities who go about their daily life routines. Paparazzi are often known for their relentless pursuit of celebrities.

In Job seven, verse twelve, "Am I a sea, or a whale, that thou settest a watch over me?" Saul was a relentless watcher of David. However, throughout Saul's monitoring of him, he became a person with behavioral issues. On one hand, at the start of First Samuel eighteen, verse eleven, "And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it." On the other hand, "Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him," as in verse fifteen of the same chapter.

All the buildup of monitoring someone famous is almost similar to stalking, which is unacceptable behaviour. Who can tell the difference between a stalker and a bounty hunter? They come in silence, not saying anything, but intend to get something which the person on the other end is unable to determine in the moment. Saul was so infested with David, with all the fame he was receiving, that this king wanted him to be his son-in-law, as in the last part of verse twenty-one, "Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be

my son-in-law in the one of the twain." Saul sent messengers to watch him at his house in chapter nineteen, verse eleven. Saul monitored and followed, like a paparazzi to Keilah, as in First Samuel twenty-three, verse thirteen, then the wilderness of Ziph in verse fourteen, then the wilderness of Maon in verse twenty-five.

Fame will remind some to demonstrate and entertain strangers. Unfortunately, the public will look at famous people and treat them differently from others because of what they know of them. Depending on the individual and what they have become recognized for could be good or bad. David once again is the focus in First Samuel twenty-one, verse eleven, escaping from Saul, he went to Achish, the king of Gath. "And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?"

Fame is notoriety. And that must have been a surprise to David that the King of Gath knew about him, that he began to entertain out of fear, as in verse thirteen, "And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard."

Fame is untainted territory. Do people in this world know that their lives will remain the same when they become famous? It all depends on what it is and how the public will perceive it. Fame is not a game, and it will take your name and take you high or low and not remember where you came.