

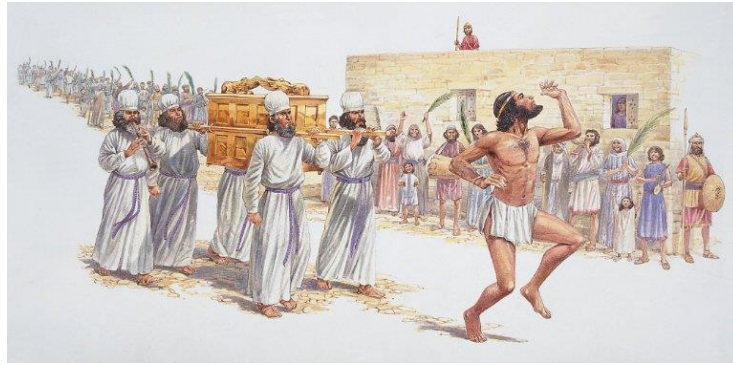
“Dancing King”

July 15th, 2018
2 Samuel 6:12-22

Rev. Kimberly Heath
Wall Street United Church

A dramatic monologue of Michal and a Servant Girl

(written and acted by Rev. Kimberly Heath)



Adapted from 2 Samuel chapter 6:

King David took the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem with shouts of joy and the sound of trumpets, for a great celebration. David, wearing only a linen cloth around his waist, danced with all his might to honour the Lord.

As the Ark was being brought into the city, Michal, David's wife, looked out of the window and saw King David dancing and jumping around, and she was disgusted with him.

Afterward, when David went home to greet his family, Michal came out to meet him. "The king of Israel made a big name for himself today!" she said. "He exposed himself like a fool in the sight of the servant women of his officials!" David answered, "I was dancing to honour the Lord, who chose me instead of your father and his family to make me the leader of his people Israel. And I will go on dancing to honour the Lord, and will disgrace myself even more. You may think I am nothing, but those servant women will think highly of me!"

Queen Michal speaks:



I was embarrassed for him! I think everyone was. Who does he think he is? Or maybe he wasn't thinking at all about who he is: a king! He looked more like the village idiot. He was as far from looking like a king as you could get. Can you imagine leaping and dancing half-naked in public? In front of crowds of people? Disgusting. Shameful!

I know how a king should behave, after all — I am the proud daughter of one and the unfortunate wife of another! Though I hardly want to place David in the same category as my father.

King Saul was my father. He was tall, and carried himself like a king. He would never have disgraced himself like that! He carried himself with dignity and decorum. He didn't run or twirl about like a child—like a little girl pretending to be a princess. My father was a *real* king! If people needed help or wisdom, he would dispense it. If there was a battle to fight, he would lead it. If there was a celebration to be held, he would host it lavishly and tastefully.

My father was trying to secure an alliance by having me marry David. No doubt he wanted to keep David close; he was being strategic. He didn't trust David. *Keep your friends close and your enemies closer!* He suspected David would try to steal his throne, and he was right. You can't be king and at the top and not be aware of everyone under you, grabbing hold of your ankles and robes and trying to trip you and pull you down and overthrow you.

I didn't believe it about David at first. Truth be told, in those early years I was under David's spell ... he seemed so genuine, and even humble. He played music beautifully and he wasn't afraid on the battle field — even taking out that bully Goliath in a really clever way. I admit that I liked him... or thought I did. But I was young and foolish. I even protected David and lied to my father when my father wanted him gone. *I helped David escape.* Does anyone remember that about me now? No. But that's just as well; it wasn't one of my finer moments. If I'd known what an embarrassment he would turn out to be, I wouldn't have gone to the trouble.

I don't think he was ever terribly interested in me. He was much closer to my brother Jonathan. But when you are in my position in society, you don't marry because of something as flimsy as love. Everything is strategic. I thought that I would at least *respect* my husband, even if I didn't care for him that much. But I cannot respect a buffoon like this. He doesn't deserve to be called a king.

To think all this dancing is because they are bringing the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem! It is a beautiful chest, entirely covered in gold, and said to contain the Law and the stone tablets from Moses, and some say even a jar of manna and the rod of Aaron. It is said to contain the very presence of God.

It sounds like hocus pocus to me, but even if it were true — don't you think the Lord Almighty would want things done with honour and dignity? The procession should have been done with military precision and perfect pomp and ceremony. That is how King Saul would have handled it. It would have been flawless and a display of power—both God's and the king's power. Surely that was David's intention, to align himself with the power of

God? To tell the world he was as powerful as the God of angel armies? Instead of using this great dramatic scene to his advantage and sending a signal to his subjects and all the nations around, the entire kingdom and no doubt many foreigners have witnessed a grand display of silliness and trivial buffoonery. The circus came to Jerusalem today — and guess who was the head clown?

I know I'm right, but he won't listen to me. There is little that I can do. Yes, I Michal, daughter of king Saul, I am stuck in this position. There is no escape for me, for I am not a man and cannot on a whim decide to leave this one and marry that one. I have accepted my fate, and I will do what I can to bring some decency and decorum to this court. God help me!

The Servant Girl speaks:



Wasn't he wonderful??!! Did you see it? Everyone is talking about it. Everyone is talking about him. What a king we have!

Oh — I should introduce myself. I'm Hamutal, and I'm a servant in the court of the king. I'm not very high up but I'm not in charge of chamber pots either. 😊

Mostly I help to clean. I even get to clean in the very court of the king!

I don't know if I do a great job or not ... I'm always wondering what the others

are saying about me. I'm so afraid of tripping or saying something that I shouldn't. I'm afraid if I say something it will sound so stupid ... and I'll totally embarrass myself. I try so hard to be serious and stay focused, but then it seems some days the harder I try, the more mistakes I make. I know the other servants think I'm a bit of a klutz. I try hard to impress the other servants and of course all the people I serve, but it just makes me so nervous and anxious.

But King David, sigh, King David... I don't think he is afraid of anything or anyone! Can you imagine what that would be like? I was too young at the time, but I heard how years ago when he was just a boy he faced a giant! Everyone else was terrified, but not David. He killed that giant with no armour at all — just a sling shot with a single stone! Can you even imagine!

He is so strong and mighty, but it's like he doesn't have to prove it to anyone. He just is. You know what I mean? He doesn't march around with armour or expensive robes just to make a point that he is king. He knows he's a king, and believe me, so does everyone else. He just has this ... I don't know how to describe it ... when he walks into a room everyone

notices and when he says something everyone hangs on every word ... maybe all kings are like that! I don't know, but he is special — that's for sure!

The servants all think that king David is wonderful. He sometimes even talks to us. It's like we are not so far beneath him. Some say it's because he used to be a shepherd boy and others because he was an outcast himself — running away from the last king. Who knows?

This is where I might sound stupid, but I think it has something to do with the Lord God or how he worships the Lord God or talks to the Lord God. King David doesn't just see God as powerful, which he is—the Lord is the Almighty who made the heavens and the earth—but King David has shown us that God is a God of love. King David writes these beautiful poems about God. I can never remember them, but I remember one where it said over and over “His steadfast love endures forever.” I have the feeling that God loves David very much too — and that God really loves his dancing.

David was wearing the apron of a priest. That's how close he is to God — he can wear what the priest wears! And he wasn't wearing much else! (Lol) It was ... interesting and simply awesome. I was spellbound. You could tell he was very serious about it and that he really didn't give a flying pheasant what anyone else thought. He seemed totally focused on God. It seemed that he only cared about what God thought of him.

Can you imagine that? Can you imagine how different it would be if you didn't care what other people thought of you? Can you imagine what it would be like if you knew, really knew that God loved you? It's hard for me to imagine, but King David makes me think it could be possible. I wonder if it's only possible for a king? After all, King David is God's anointed, and I'm just a servant girl. I wonder if God even knows me? I suppose he must if he is Almighty. What would he think of me? Maybe he would love me. King David makes me think he just might.

I still can't believe that the Ark of the Covenant is here! Those dreadful Philistines had the ark for so long, but now it's back where it belongs — with the People of Israel. This is the presence of God.

This is where God lives! Imagine the blessings that will come to us now. May we be worthy of his presence and forever sing his praise!

Amen