

A very unfortunate story I witnessed went like this: a lady in the church accused another lady in the church of being an adulterer.

- She used the Bible to force me to either kick her out of the church or publicly humiliate her.

The accused came in to give me her side of the story.

- She and this woman had known each other from childhood. The accused was pretty. She was the popular homecoming queen in high school.
- The accuser was jealous of her since the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- Yes. When her marriage fell apart, she moved in with a man. Unfortunately, this man also had dated the accuser earlier. This man just happened to live directly behind the accuser. Their backyards abutted.
- She showed me her marriage license, to prove that they were legal.
- In her story, she and her new husband found Jesus and his grace at the same time at this church.
- They even had a restraining order against this accuser.

The attitudes of the two were stark.

- The attitude of the accuser was vile. She was looking for revenge, to bring this lady down. Her face was red when she spoke, and she demanded I do something.
- The accused was broken and tear-filled. She only asked for prayer.

The story does not have a happy ending. The accuser was ordered by a judge to find a new church. The accused woman died of uterine cancer within a year.

There is a reason jealousy is one of the seven deadly sins – it changes you into an angry, critical person who does not think straight. The choice is ours to be better or bitter.

We are looking at the life of David and learning from his example. Even though David has been anointed king and has slain Goliath, it will be many years before David sits on the throne. Today, we examine Saul's jealousy.

## David Jealousy



David has four unique relationships at this time.

David's Unique Relationships First of all, David lived in submission to Saul.

- Submission to Saul. He refused to do anything against king Saul; he was loyal.
- Friendship with Jonathan, Saul's son.
- Favor with the people of Israel. But from Saul's perspective ...
- An enemy of Saul.

God always prepares us for our future, but I am glad God does not tell us what we must go through. After killing the giant, David went 'into one of the deepest, longest, and darkest valleys of his entire life.'<sup>1</sup>

- Killing Goliath brought instant popularity, but it also aroused Saul's jealousy.
- The remainder of 1 Samuel is about Saul's decline and David's rise.
- A key verse is: 'David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the Lord was with him (1Sa 18:14 NLT).' Key to ending life well is being with the Lord.

Let's pick up our story where we left off last week.

## 1. Jealousy.

David is still holding the Goliath's in his hand as he talks with king Saul. Saul's son Jonathan introduces himself and the two strike up an instant friendship.

Here we get the first hint that something was not right with Saul: 'From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home (1Sa 18:2 NLT).'

- Insecure or wounded people always try to control their surroundings. They seek security and reason 'if I organize everything around me, I won't get hurt again.' This is rarely successful.
- Apparently, David had been splitting his time between shepherding and music at the palace.

'Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike. <sup>6</sup> When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. <sup>7</sup> This was their song: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands (1Sa 18:5-7 NLT)!"'

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<sup>1</sup> Charles R. Swindoll, *David: A Story of Passion & Destiny* (Nashville, TN: W Publishing, 1997), p. 51.

- The troops and the people loved David.
- At this point Saul can become a better man or a bitter man – bitter or better?

'This made Saul very angry. "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!"<sup>9</sup> So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David (1Sa 18:8-9 NLT).'

- It's funny that a song that he did not write got David in trouble.
- Saul thought, 'the giant-killer could easily become a king-killer.'
- Remember, Saul was taken from obscurity and placed on the throne; easy come, easy go.
- Saul was an insecure leader.

Let's unpack jealousy (v.9) and some related concepts for a minute.

Jealousy / Envy / Greed.

- Jealousy is the sin of the 'have nots.' Dorothy Sayers wrote, 'Envy sees to it that success is brought down ... (it) is a mushroom growing in the shadows of virtues.' – Dorothy Sayers
- It was the first temptation, Ge 3:6. Eve had plenty of food, she wanted wisdom and to possess the fruit's beauty. She wanted 'more.' 'When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it (Ge 3:6 NIV).'
- We are jealous of people / things close to us (Ex 20:17). We desire what is close to us. It usually starts with little things like a great dish at a potluck. 'Do not covet your neighbor's wife ... or anything that belongs to your neighbor (Ex 20:17 NIV).'
- Jealousy leads to division and evil (Ja 3:16). Jealousy interprets things through the green lens of fear, worry, and paranoia. 'For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind (Ja 3:16 NLT).'

Story of a happy Connie and Annie at Yankee Candle in Deerfield, MA.<sup>2</sup> I was happy until I wanted to own the moment with a photograph. I wanted to possess the emotion. I wanted to preserve the feeling to take it out when I pleased. At that point, my selfishness was ugly.

Let me give you two antidotes for jealousy.

Antidotes for Jealousy.

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<sup>2</sup> Chandler's Restaurant, Annie was 2 or 3.

- Allow others their success, giftedness, and influence (Ro 12:5). We are to 'Rejoice with those who rejoice (Ro 12:15 NIV).' Remember, Jesus told a parable of different talents, or Paul wrote about people having 'different kind of (spiritual) gifts,' as the Spirit distributes them (1Co 12:4).
- Be content with your success, giftedness, influence (Lk 3:14, He 13:5). John the Baptist told some soldiers, 'Don't extort money ... be content with your pay (Lk 3:14 NIV).' We are to 'be content with what you have (He 13:5 NIV).'
- Don't compare yourself with others (Ga 6:4). 'Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else (Ga 6:4 NIV).'

Let's continue ...

## 2. 1<sup>st</sup> Attack.

'The very next day a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand,<sup>11</sup> and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice.<sup>12</sup> Saul was then afraid of David, for the Lord was with David and had turned away from Saul.<sup>13</sup> Finally, Saul sent him away and appointed him commander over 1,000 men, and David faithfully led his troops into battle.<sup>14</sup> David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the Lord was with him.<sup>15</sup> When Saul recognized this, he became even more afraid of him.<sup>16</sup> But all Israel and Judah loved David because he was so successful at leading his troops into battle (1Sa 18:10-16 NLT)''

Let's stop. I've lost you. You did not hear anything else after 'a tormenting spirit from God (v. 10).'

Two options ...

1. An evil spirit the Lord allowed, but did not order. God is not the originator of evil.  
 2. A vacuum that Saul created by disobedience was filled with something. The human heart without God is bent towards evil. Earlier, the Holy Spirit came on Saul, and later God withdrew the Holy Spirit, leaving a vacuum: 'Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him (1Sa 16:14 NIV).' Jesus taught the disciples,

- Jesus – ""When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none.<sup>44</sup> Then it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order.<sup>45</sup> Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before (Mt 12:43-45 NLT)'' Perhaps this is why David prayed after he sinned with Bathsheba,
- David - 'Do not ... take your Holy Spirit from me (Ps 51:11 NIV).'

We do not know what the source of this torment – whether it was an absence of the Holy Spirit or an actual evil spirit.<sup>3</sup>

- This is why we are to keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- We should not leave any foothold for the Evil One in our lives through thought or action.

David has only been a loyal subject, doing as he was told. Twice Saul threw a spear at David.

David has been given command of a large group of men, and he has been successful in defeating the Philistines. 'David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the Lord was with him (1Sa 18:14 NLT).' Why is David successful? Because he has a heart after God (1Sa 13:14).<sup>4</sup>

- God wants us to learn to trust Him, to lean on Him and not our skills or position. For most of us that means spears before crowns, and trials before triumphs.

We have reached the peak of David's early success. Next week it is all about David's loss. He will lose his wife, his friend Jonathan, his army, and his position - everything he has been given by Saul. David will hit the lowest point of his life.

But today, David is still publicly favored.

### 3. Michal.

'Saul's daughter Michal had fallen in love with David, and Saul was delighted when he heard about it. <sup>21</sup> "Here's another chance to see him killed by the Philistines!" Saul said to himself. But to David he said, "Today you have a second chance to become my son-in-law!" <sup>22</sup> Then Saul told his men to say to David, "The king really likes you, and so do we. Why don't you accept the king's offer and become his son-in-law?" <sup>23</sup> When Saul's men said these things to David, he replied, "How can a poor man from a humble family afford the bride price for the daughter of a king (1Sa 18:20-30 NLT)?"'

- From Saul's self-talk we learn that he is scheming and working behind the scenes to get David killed.
- He uses his daughter as a pawn in his game.

'When Saul's men reported this back to the king, <sup>25</sup> he told them, "Tell David that all I want for the bride price is 100 Philistine foreskins! Vengeance on my enemies is all I really want." But what Saul had in mind was that David would

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<sup>3</sup> Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. Peter H. Davids, F.F. Bruce, Manfred T. Baruch, *Hard Sayings of the Bible* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996), pp. 211-12.

<sup>4</sup> 'The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart (1Sa 13:14 NIV).'

be killed in the fight. <sup>26</sup> David was delighted to accept the offer. Before the time limit expired, <sup>27</sup> he and his men went out and killed 200 Philistines. Then David fulfilled the king's requirement by presenting all their foreskins to him. So Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife. <sup>28</sup> When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and how much his daughter Michal loved him, <sup>29</sup> Saul became even more afraid of him, and he remained David's enemy for the rest of his life (1Sa 18:24-29 NLT).'

- Saul's plan backfires. Remarkably, David kills 200 Philistine men and pays the price for Michal as his wife.
- Saul now considers David an enemy and a threat to his throne.

It is easy to overlook this next line: 'Every time the commanders of the Philistines attacked, David was more successful against them than all the rest of Saul's officers. So David's name became very famous (1Sa 18:24-30 NLT).'

- David rises to the top. He is growing in his skills as a commander and God is granting him success. Four times in these two chapters it says that the Lord gave David success or prosperity.
- David is not ignorant of Saul; he has had a spear thrown at him twice. David knows he must stay alert to survive.

#### 4. Kill David.

'Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David. But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David, <sup>2</sup> told him what his father was planning (1Sa 19:1 NLT).'

- It is good we don't know the future; it forces us to take one day at a time. As Jesus said, 'do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own (Mt 6:34 NIV).'
- It is also good to have a close friend to help us through difficult times. My closest friends are the men who were with me when I went through trouble. They were there for me. This is why digital church can only go so far, at some point you need real friends, not digital friends.

Jonathan told David, "Tomorrow morning," he warned him, "you must find a hiding place out in the fields. <sup>3</sup> I'll ask my father to go out there with me, and I'll talk to him about you. Then I'll tell you everything I can find out." <sup>4</sup> The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him. "The king must not sin against his servant David," Jonathan said. "He's never done anything to harm you. He has always helped you in any way he could ... Why should you murder an innocent man like David? There is no reason for it at all!" <sup>6</sup> So Saul listened to Jonathan and vowed, "As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be killed." <sup>7</sup> Afterward Jonathan called David and told him what had happened. Then he brought David to Saul, and David served in the court as before (1Sa 19:2-7 NLT)!"

- Things return to normal, with David as a military leader and musician.
- I wonder, 'Why does David keep going back to the palace if he knows Saul could kill him?' David could not have known how his life's story would play out.
- I think it is one word, loyalty. Someone (Ahimelek) said to Saul, 'Who of all your servants is as loyal as David, the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard and highly respected in your household (1Sa 22:14 NIV)?' That honesty got him killed because Saul did not want to hear of David's loyalty. Remember, jealousy is like a mushroom growing in the shadow of virtue.

## 5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Attack.

'War broke out again after that, and David led his troops against the Philistines. He attacked them with such fury that they all ran away. <sup>9</sup>But one day when Saul was sitting at home, with spear in hand, the tormenting spirit from the Lord suddenly came upon him again. As David played his harp, <sup>10</sup>Saul hurled his spear at David. But David dodged out of the way, and leaving the spear stuck in the wall, he fled and escaped into the night (1Sa 19:8-10 NLT).'

This is the last time David was in Saul's palace. David flees for his life and loses everything for a season.

- However, God really does work all things for the good (Ro 8:28).
- It is in the desert where God makes men who trust in him.
- David's son wrote, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (Pro 3:5-6 NIV).'
- Perhaps David thought the pathway to fulfilling Samuel's anointing and prophecy was to hang around the palace. But no, spears before crowns, and trials before triumph. The road to the palace winds through a dark valley.
- But in the lowest point of his life, we see David's heart for God.

## Conclusion.

Here are some takeaways from David's life.

Takeaways...

- Be genuinely happy when others are blessed (Ro 12:15). It is our choice to become bitter or better people.
- Do not compare yourselves to others (Ga 6:4).
- Be content with who we are in Christ (Lk 3:14, He 13:5). In other words,

'Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us (Ro 12:13 NLT).'

- David saw himself simply as a shepherd. Near the end of his life, he interceded on behalf of Israel for his mistake: 'I have sinned; I, the shepherd, have done wrong (2Sa 24:17 NIV).'

Pray.