

Envy

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Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Samuel 18:5-9 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. 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.

- I. The Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul before he began to envy David.
 - A. We do not find David ever envying anyone, even though he had much more opportunity and reason than Saul.
 - B. Being governed by God in our spirit and in our physical life prevents us from falling under the evil spell of envy.
 - C. Being governed by our selfishness, lusts, and pride makes us prone to envy others.

- II. Envy is the spark that sets off a wildfire of evil in the heart and mind.
 - A. From the day that Saul heard the songs and praise of the women that esteemed David more than him, Saul saw every thing David that said or did as something evil aimed at him.
 - B. David's coming in and going out pleased God and the people, but nothing he could possibly do could please Saul, but was taken rather as some scheme against him.
 - C. When someone envies you they have made you their enemy, no matter how you feel toward them.
 1. From that time forward all they say, do, and think concerning you is as toward their arch-enemy.
 - D. Therefore, there is no defense or remedy against the envy that another person has toward you.
 1. Reasoning with them is lost, they will interpret everything you say and do as some kind of trick or scheme to best them again, or make them look bad.
 2. You must simply continue to do right and avoid them as much as you can.
 - E. David had to live with this blight on his life until God took it away by ending Saul's life and removing him from the scene.

- III. Envy is a root of hatred.
 - A. Saul tried to kill David – that is proof that he hated him.
 - B. Envy is something that begins with a spark; it is that prick you feel in your heart when someone else is thought better of than you.
 - C. As we have talked about before it is similar to jealousy, but not the same.

1. Jealousy is that passion of peculiar uneasiness which arises from the fear that a rival may rob us of the affection of one whom we love, or the suspicion that he has already done it;
 2. Envy is to feel uneasiness, mortification or discontent, at the sight of superior excellence, reputation or happiness enjoyed by another; to repine at another's prosperity; to fret or grieve one's self at the real or supposed superiority of another, and to hate him on that account.
 3. So Saul envied David; Saul did not love the people, so it cannot be said that he was jealous because of their affection for David.
- D. If you have someone who hates you and you cannot understand why, envy is most likely the reason.
1. Somewhere, at some time, their envy was sparked by something someone said about you, or did for you, and they felt neglected, forgotten, or wronged by it.
 2. It might not have been you at all, but someone else who is your friend or loved one, that he envied.
 3. Envy makes you hate everyone – not just one person.
 4. It usually begins with one person, but before long everyone is your enemy, unless they also hate the person you hate.
- E. Saul hated everyone.
1. He killed all the priests because one of them showed David kindness, without even knowing what was going on with Saul.
 2. He would have killed his own good son Jonathan had the people not denied him.
 3. He used his daughters as pawns and wasted their lives to work his devious plans on David to destroy him.
 4. No one was safe around Saul – not even his close family.
 5. That is why people begin to avoid a person like Saul and this only makes him grow more insane in his hatred.

IV. Envy begets fear.

1 Samuel 18:12 And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

1 Samuel 18:15 Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

1 Samuel 18:29 And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

- A. Because of the insecurity.
- B. When a person feels that they are number one, and then realizes that they are not, fear of losing their position, their status, of being humbled and humiliated mortifies them.
- C. When a proud, selfish person realizes that there is someone present in their life that can take them down, and has the support of others, fear becomes a major part of their motivation and their actions and reactions toward this person.
- D. When acting out of fear people are irrational – they do things in panic and without any foresight.
 1. They respond excessively to anything that arouses their fear.

- V. Envy will make a person devious and scheming in his efforts to best the person he has made his enemy.

1 Samuel 18:17-29 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him. And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king? But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife. And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain. And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law. And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed? And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife. And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

- A. The affairs of the kingdom and the business of life were not important to Saul anymore.
- B. His only focus was to try to destroy David.
- C. He would use anyone in his efforts to kill David – his own daughters, his friends, his people, his enemies – it did not matter as long as it ended with David being destroyed.
- D. He would let everything else in life go down the drain if only he could get rid of David somehow.
- E. David eventually came to grips with this fact and he fled from the presence of Saul.
 - 1. He got away from him and broke all his ties and associations with him.
 - 2. He did not work for him anymore.
 - 3. David realized this was the only way he was going to survive until God did something about Saul himself.
- F. Take David's example and apply it to your life concerning those that hate you without a cause and have made you their enemy.
 - 1. Keep doing what is right in God's sight and in the sight of others.
 - 2. Wait for God to remedy the situation and either bring your avowed enemy to his senses through true salvation, or by removing them through death or some other means that stops them from trying to destroy you.
- G. And also, remember and obey the words of Jesus:

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

- 1. This is exactly what David did thousands of years before Jesus said these words.