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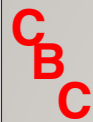
Min. Marossa Davis



Sunday Church School

August 9, 2020

“Saul’s Attempts on David’s Life”
I Samuel 19: 8-17



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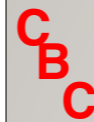
“Saul’s Attempts on David’s Life”
I Samuel 19: 8-17

v. 8 “And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

v. 9 And the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.

v.10 And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

v. 11 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.



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I Samuel 19: 8-17

v.12 “So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.

v.13 And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth.

v.14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick.

v.15 And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.”

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I Samuel 19: 8-17

v. 16 **And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster.**

v. 17 And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?”

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Jealousy is a very common sin and has been the root of much heartache. Jealousy has been the cause of the breakup of many friendships and marriage and has caused otherwise good people to plot against fellow workers in order to climb the corporate ladder. Leaders of nations have **envied** the territory controlled by neighboring nations and seized it by force, this bringing about wars between them.

Christians are not immune to jealousy. Believers are sometimes envious of others in the same way non Christians are. Some people are intolerant of another persons success and they respond with pettiness. In this week’s lesson we see how jealousy can even lead to murder. The theme of **jealousy** is not a new one in the Bible. You may remember:

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A Few Examples of Jealousy in the Bible

Cain’s jealousy over Abel’s offering being accepted and his rejected (Genesis 4:1-11)

Sarah’s jealousy over Hagar after she was carrying Abraham’s child, ultimately banishing her. (Genesis 16: 1-6)

Peninnah’s jealousy over Elkanah’s love for Hannah who was childless caused her to tease and taunt her relentlessly (I Samuel 1: 1-7)

Joseph’s brothers jealousy over him being their father’s favorite with his beautiful multicolor robe! (Genesis 37: 3-27)

Haman’s jealous over Mordecai refusing to bow to him and later Mordecai being honored by King Ahasuerus. (Esther 3-6:12)

Herod’s jealousy over the Christ Child **born king** led him to murder all male first born sons two years old and under. (Matthew 2:16)

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Jealousy can be defined as the resentful or painful desire for another’s advantage (envious, covet). To be jealous is when one is **fearful** of the loss of **position** or **affection**.

Pastor Bogan shared with us last week about how young David killed the giant Goliath.(I Sam 17) He then quickly rose to prominence in Israel as King Saul set him over the men of war. Up to that point, Saul was considered a national hero. David’s victory over the Philistine giant quickly rose David into **national fame** that exceeded Saul’s. Saul realized that David was now more popular than he was in the kingdom. The women began to sing David’s praises and Saul could not stand to hear them. Because of this, Saul became paranoid with regard to David, thinking that he was a **threat to his throne**. He would not tolerate this type of disrespect and he was determined to end it!

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In the meantime, David had become good friends with Saul’s son Jonathan and had married Saul’s daughter Michal. Both Jonathan and Michal loved David. Saul had allowed David to marry Michal, his daughter, because he thought in some way she might be a snare to him. (v. 21)

Whatever Saul had in mind for David though always seemed to backfire. Romans 8:31 states “ If God be for us, who can be against us?” Our Golden text for this week reads “ Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivered him out of them all” Psalms 34:19.

At this point in Israel’s history, there was constant conflict with the Philistines. So when our lesson opens “ **And there was war again...**” it comes as no surprise and no surprise that under David’s command he fought victoriously against them.

Verse 9 speaks of an evil spirit from the Lord being upon Saul.

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Some interpret this as a troubling spirit sent as an angel of judgment against Saul. As a result, Saul would be in misery. The spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul but was with David. **I Samuel 18:12 “And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul”**

Though God permitted the evil spirit to come upon Saul, James 1:13 warns us “ let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempted he any man.”

David’s music was the only thing that could calm the evil spirit that now tormented the King. This time, not even David’s playing could soothe the king. While David was playing his instrument Saul suddenly threw the javelin he had been holding. Young and quick, David was able to elude Saul’s spear and escape death (again) The fact that he had a weapon in his hand, may have

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meant that he most likely intended to kill David or that his paranoia was such that **he needed a weapon beside him at all times.** Our lesson today teaches us that only a deeply troubled individual would sit armed for war inside the safest house in Israel. Do you know of anyone that is always ready to ‘ stick someone to the wall’ ? Someone that always has their javelin or spear at their side? Always armed for battle? From this point on , David would be a fugitive, never returning to the court of King Saul.

Perhaps when David left, he felt that Saul might get over his mental instability and that he would be safe in his own home. However, Saul was serious about his intentions to kill his son in law. He sent servants to David’s house to try to make sure he did not get away. Somehow Michal became aware of the plot and warned David to flee out of a window since the normal exits were being watched (Rahab and the Hebrew spies Joshua 2:12-15) ,(Paul Acts 9: 23-23).

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In case their house was searched Michal took an ‘image’ and put it in David’s bed. The Hebrew word is Teraphim which was a technical term for a particular kind of idol. We do not know why it was there just that it was used to make it look as if David was lying in bed. This deception was done at considerable risk to herself. **If Saul had discovered** what she had done to help David, she would have risked death at the hands of her father and ruler. Saul had other attempts on the life of David up to this point. He assumed the Philistines would kill him in battle, he sought to stick him to the wall with his own javelin, he sent messengers to kill him in the morning and when they came back and told him he was in bed sick, he replied for them to bring him, carrying in his bed if necessary he that he might kill him! **No trial, no appeal, no compassion.** As an absolute monarch, Saul could decide who lived or died. (or so he thought). Given orders to bring David back, the messengers realized they had been

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tricked. Michal had tried to give David time to escape the evil intentions of her father. She may not have wanted to resort to deception against her own father but felt she had **few options** if she wanted to see the life of her husband spared. **Though Michal was Saul’s daughter, she was also David’s wife** and her first allegiance was to her husband. While most of us will never find ourselves in the exact circumstances Michal found herself in, there are times when an enraged spouse or boyfriend or girlfriend comes looking for a person to harm them. Friends or family members may have to hide them to keep them from being harmed.

Deception should not be eagerly practiced, but there are times when people must make a choice that will **protect human life** in spite of the consequences. Saul resented her disloyalty and might have transferred his murderous intentions if she had not said that David had threatened her.

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“Saul’s Attempt on David’s Life ”

The involvement of Saul’s children intensified the love - hate relationship between Saul and David. In this case, David, the victim, incited his rival to jealousy simply by being the person he was and in the end complete separation of the two people involved was the only remedy.

The saddest part of this account is that Saul saw David as his enemy. Of course, nothing could have been further from the truth. David had done nothing to indicate that he was anything other than a loyal subject of the king, and neither would he do anything in the future that would call his loyalty into question. When Saul was tormented by an evil spirit, David was there to calm him, when Saul needed a warrior to fight the enemy, David stepped up and fought. Saul should have been looking for ways to promote David, not to kill him. But Saul was only interested in his own prestige and could not stand for anyone

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else to receive applause. He was an evil man who was under the judgment of God, and the presence of the Lord in David was more than this wicked man could stand.

There is much to be learned about jealousy from King Saul. What led to this jealousy was the fact that he did not wholeheartedly serve the Lord and had come under judgment for his disobedience at Gilgal. Seeking the Lord will lead to contentment and prevent jealousy from gaining a foothold in our lives.

David had the opportunity to kill Saul, but he refused saying, “The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.”(I Sam 24:6). David recognized the sovereignty of God regarding those in positions of leadership. Should they need to be removed, God in His own time, and in His own way will remove them.

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Jealousy has a way of preventing us from seeing clearly. We cannot enjoy the blessings God has given us if we are jealous of the blessings He has given to others. Instead of applauding someone else for their success, it is often easier to resent them for it. Jealousy is something that must be resisted, as it goes against how God wants us to respond to others.

Jealousy is not a healthy attitude for anyone, and it is especially unseemly for a Christian. Just because God blesses one person does not mean that He will not bless another person. He gives gifts from an endless supply of resources and His blessings and love cannot be exhausted. If you struggle with jealousy, be aware of the destruction it brings. **God loves you and there is no reason for us to want someone else’s success.**

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Envy is not of God, but is a work of the flesh. (Galatians 5:19-21). The rage in Saul refused to subside. James 3:16 reads, “ Where envying and strife is there is confusion and every evil work. Saul’s behavior showed confusion. At times he enjoyed the presence of David and at other times he wanted him dead. He practiced evil by trying to get others to kill David. The enemy will try to use envy and strife against any believer, weak or strong Hebrews 12:15.

1. **In the Presence of our enemies:** (I Samuel 19:8-12) God is our protection. Whether from a single enemy or a multitude, God will protect us. God can handle whatever the enemy brings into our lives. Our enemies are often closer than we think but God is always closer to us than they are and He will often intercede in the most unexpected ways. One thing is for sure : God is always near and we can count on Him for spiritual protection. Our true enemy is Satan (Ephesians 6:12) and God’s Word is our weapon to help us fight our spiritual battles.

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2. **In the Presence of our God.** I Samuel 19: 13-17. God knows every plan of the enemy. Nothing can surprise Him or catch Him off guard. When Saul tried to kill David after being told David was sick, God foiled Saul’s plan. Saul gave his daughter to David to be a snare but she was a safeguard to him. God is omniscient. **No matter how secretive the attack,** God is willing and able to counterattack with spiritual protection. Saul felt betrayed by his daughter but it was he that was constantly betraying David and his hatred had alienated his own son and his daughter. God knows the effect of envy and hatred on His children. His caring presence in our lives keeps us protected. We may be surrounded with threats, but God surrounds us with the power of His grace and mercy. **He is always greater!**

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Practical Points

1. **God always accomplishes His will through His chosen people (I Sam 19:8).**
2. People of faith should keep in mind that Satan desires to defeat them (vss. 9-10).
3. **God will be with His people and prepare a way of escape for them (vss. 11-12).**
4. Sometimes loyalty to God means that we have to break our loyalty with close to us (vss. 13-14).
5. **The promises of God provide a place of safety for those who obey Him (vss.15-16).**
6. Sometimes God will turn even the closest associates of His enemy against each other to accomplish His purposes (vs.17).

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For Further Reflection

- 1 What did jealousy do to King Saul and his relationship with David?
2. Why are believers warned not to hold a grudge against one another? (cf Leviticus 19:18)
3. Why should people of faith not allow jealousy to take root in their lives?
4. What are some ways that might help us ‘lay our javelins down’ in our relationship with others?

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