

Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study - Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Study Series: A Man After God's Own Heart
Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:5-16; 19:1-10

Part 4: Saul's Jealousy of David
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Introduction

Here we follow the train of events that followed David's triumphant victory over Goliath. We see in today's passages how the victory of one young lad who had a heart to please God triggered a series of jealous, spiteful and angry actions of another man whose heart revealed that he did not reverence of honor God at his core. We are going to discuss in depth the difference between each man's heart and how it influenced each of their actions and mindset in the chapters that follow. Ultimately, we are going to see that having a heart to honor God will always lead one down a path of success, good and pleasing the Father.

What does it mean to have a "jealous eye" on someone? (18:9)

David's Promotion by Saul

1 Samuel 18:5- *There is a dichotomy of feelings that are subtly presented in this verse- Saul promoted David, but WHY did he promote David? What were his motives in doing this?*

1 Samuel 18:6-9- The people respond to Saul and David's return, particularly the women in song.

- *How do you think Saul felt after hearing the Israelite women sing this song?*
- *Name some emotions that were sparked in Saul's heart as the women were singing.*
- *From what we have seen of David so far, what do you think David's response to this song was?*
- We see here that the praises of man meant a lot to Saul, because of a mere song he was easily drawn away in his heart deeper in the seat of jealousy and hatred. This demonstrates the importance of not regarding the praises of man as anything and highlights the importance of putting more emphasis on the approval of God. A couple of lessons back, we learned through the story of David and Goliath, that David was not concerned with the praises he could receive from killing Goliath, he was more concerned that someone was trying to defy the children of God. The difference in heart posture sets the stage for how David and Saul interact with and deal with one another.

1 Samuel 18:10- This verse reveals a lot about the character of both of our 2 main characters:

<u>Saul</u>	<u>David</u>
He was plagued with a mad spirit because he allowed sin to have an entry point into his heart. He allowed jealousy and hatred in and thus he was tormented.	He played his harp as he always did, he didn't allow the circumstances around him change his heart posture.

David could have easily said that because he just killed the Philistine Champion, which Saul could not do, why should he have to subject himself to ministering to Saul in music? But, due to the spirit of HUMILITY in David, he did as he always had. He humbled himself and ministered to Saul. When a lot of human beings get even the smallest taste of success or victory, oftentimes the devil can manipulate their hearts with the spirit of pride and haughtiness, but David did not, he abased himself and served Saul as he always did. There is a category of people who would have seized that opportunity to begin to misbehave to their superior, but David did not do that. David was more concerned with remaining faithful to God and continued to honor God despite Saul's hatred.

Saul's Jealousy Turns to The Desire to Kill (18:11)

- Saul tried to kill David and David escapes him twice. (The same man that killed Goliath with a sling and stone)
- *What does this reveal about David's defense strategy?*

Saul's Jealousy turns to fear of man (18:12)

- *Why was Saul fearful of David?*
- *What does Saul's actions in verse 13 reveal about where his heart was at this stage?*
- *The Bible also records that David continued to behave himself wisely, are there any other courses of action that David could have taken during this time frame?*

Food for thought: What was Saul seeking? What was David seeking? And how did this influence how they both arrive at the point they did at the end of chapter 18? (18:14-16)

Saul Continues In His Quest To Kill David (1 Samuel 19:1-10)

Remember last week, we discussed the covenant friendship that Johnathan and David shared. We now see this chapter open with King Saul trying to elicit the help of Johnathan and others in attempt to kill David again. Johnathan arranges a talk with his father, King Saul, where he can get to the bottom of King Saul's schemes.

Johnathan gives a good testimony of David to Saul, thus dissuading him from carrying out his murderous plans. (19:4)

- *What does this reveal about David's behavior towards Saul?*

In verses 6-7, we see King Saul have another change of heart and David was restored to serving in King Saul's court yet again. ***How would you have responded to this?***

In verse 8, David was focused on defending the Israelites and ensuring that the children of God were not put to shame against the Philistines. He fought against the Philistines with such fervor and passion as he always did and was victorious. ***Can we discuss the heart posture and mindset of a person as it relates to the work they do for God in the Kingdom?***

In verses 9-10, Saul again was plagued by a tormenting spirit from the Lord and attempted again to kill David. *We see here that the tormenting spirit was indeed from the Lord but why was that spirit able to attack Saul so often? Does that speak to the instability of his heart and mind toward God?* Anytime we allow our heart to go in the wrong direction- away from God, we are opening ourselves up for all sorts of attacks and it further continues a cycle of inconsistent emotions and behavioral patterns.

Conclusion: We see in these two chapters that the jealousy of one man destroyed him from the inside out, turning him into an attempted murderer. *James 3:14-16 "But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind."* Because of the root of jealousy in Saul's heart that he just could not overcome, we find him engaging in the most horrific acts against David. On the other hand, we see how the humility of another man led him to keep his heart and mind fixed on God. *Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!"* This scripture describes David's experience perfectly.

