



David's Rise and Saul's Jealousy

Kicking It Off:

If you could give your younger self one piece of advice about comparing yourself to others or dealing with jealousy, what would it be?

Read:

1 Samuel
18:5-16

Summary

In this sermon, we explore the topic of jealousy, its root causes, and how to overcome it through a deep understanding of the gospel and trust in God's plan for our lives.

The root of jealousy lies in our human tendency to determine what is good and valuable based on worldly standards, rather than trusting in God's perspective. This leads to comparing ourselves to others and coveting their successes, possessions, and relationships. However, this mindset stems from our inability to properly discern what is truly good and worthy of our pursuit, as demonstrated by the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

To overcome jealousy, we must learn to trust in God's journey for our lives, as exemplified by David's obedience to the Spirit and his eternal perspective. In contrast, Saul's focus on worldly pursuits and his desire to go from point A to point B highlights the

vanity of chasing after temporary successes. By adopting an eternal mindset and surrendering our plans to God, we can find freedom from jealousy and discover the peace that comes from walking in obedience to Him.

The gospel offers us satisfaction and peace from the very beginning, as in Christ, we have already won the ultimate victory. Our new goal is to pursue sanctification and learn to walk in step with the Holy Spirit. By rooting our identity and contentment in Christ, we can find joy and peace regardless of our external circumstances, as Paul teaches in Philippians 4:11-13.

The antidote to a jealous heart is the Spirit of God, which enables us to celebrate others' successes and find true contentment in Christ alone. As we embrace the gospel and allow it to transform our hearts, we can experience freedom from the trap of comparison and jealousy, leading to a life of joy and fulfillment in Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Jealousy arises when we determine what is good based on our own understanding, rather than trusting God's perspective. This can lead to comparing ourselves to others and coveting their successes or possessions. **In what areas of your life do you find yourself most prone to comparing yourself to others and feeling jealous? How can you begin to shift your perspective to align with God's view of what is truly valuable?**
2. David's obedience to God and his eternal perspective are key factors in overcoming jealousy, while Saul's focus on worldly pursuits is shown to be ultimately unfulfilling. **Can you share an experience where you chose to trust God's plan for your life, even when it didn't align with your own desires or the world's expectations? How did this decision impact your sense of peace and contentment?**

3. In Christ, we have already won the ultimate victory, and our new goal is to pursue sanctification and learn to walk in step with the Holy Spirit. This realization can help us find satisfaction and peace from the very beginning of our spiritual journey. **How does understanding that you are already victorious in Christ change your approach to dealing with jealousy and comparison? What practical steps can you take to focus on sanctification and walking with the Spirit in your daily life?**
4. Paul's words in Philippians 4:11-13 teach us the secret of being content in all circumstances, whether in plenty or in need. The sermon emphasizes the importance of rooting our identity and satisfaction in Christ to find joy and peace regardless of our external situation. **What are some specific ways you can cultivate a heart of contentment in your current circumstances? How can you remind yourself to find your ultimate satisfaction in Christ when you feel discontent or jealous?**
5. The Spirit of God is the antidote to a jealous heart, enabling us to celebrate others' successes and find true contentment in Christ alone. As we allow the gospel to transform our hearts, we can experience freedom from the trap of comparison and jealousy. **Can you think of a time when you genuinely celebrated someone else's success, even when you felt jealous or envious? How did the Spirit of God work in your heart to enable you to find joy in their victory? What can you do to consistently practice celebrating others and finding your contentment in Christ?**

Bible Passage

1 Samuel 18:5-16

5 And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. 6 As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang to one another as they celebrated,

*"Saul has struck down his thousands,
and David his ten thousands."*

8 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 And Saul eyed David from that day on.

10 The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. 11 And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice.

12 Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul. 13 So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. 14 And David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him. 15 And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

Outline

1. The Root of Jealousy - Jealousy arises when we deem something as good
 - Saul's jealousy of David's success and praise from the people B. The problem of determining good and bad on our own
 - The fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden
 - Our addiction to determining what is good and bad C. The root of jealousy is our inability to properly determine good and bad
 - Our desire for equality and fairness
 - Examples of jealousy in everyday life (e.g., possessions, relationships)
2. Trusting God's Journey - The difference between Saul's and David's perspectives
 - Saul's focus on going from point A to point B
 - David's trust in God's journey and obedience to the Spirit B. The vanity of worldly pursuits
 - Solomon's wisdom in Ecclesiastes about the vanity of toil and skill
 - The importance of an eternal perspective C. The antidote to jealousy is trusting God's journey for our lives
 - Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart
 - Following God's path, not our own plans
3. Finding Peace and Satisfaction - The gospel offers satisfaction from the beginning
 - In Christ, we have already won
 - Our new goal is sanctification and learning to walk with the Spirit B. Contentment in Christ regardless of circumstances
 - Philippians 4:11-13 - Learning to be content in all situations
 - The importance of living for an audience of one C. The antidote to a jealous heart is the Spirit of God
 - Celebrating others' successes
 - Finding contentment in Christ alone

Notes

I believe the root of jealousy lies in our flawed understanding of what is truly good and valuable. We often look at others' successes, possessions, or relationships and deem them as desirable, leading to feelings of envy. However, this stems from our human tendency to determine good and bad on our own terms, rather than trusting in God's perspective.

Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, we have been addicted to the idea that we can decide for ourselves what is right and wrong. This leads us to constantly compare ourselves to others, seeking equality and fairness based on worldly standards. We see examples of this in everyday life, such as coveting someone else's material possessions or desiring another person's relationships.

The real issue is that we are not equipped to properly discern what is genuinely good and worthy of our pursuit. Our jealousy reveals our misplaced priorities and our inability to grasp the eternal perspective that God offers. By focusing on temporary, earthly measures of success and value, we set ourselves up for discontent and envy. The solution lies in aligning our hearts with God's will and trusting in His definition of what is truly good and satisfying.

When I reflect on my own journey, I realize that trusting in God's plan is the key to overcoming jealousy and finding true fulfillment. It's easy to fall into the trap of focusing on worldly pursuits, like Saul did, constantly striving to get from point A to point B and measuring success by earthly standards. However, David's example shows us the importance of placing our trust in God and being obedient to His Spirit, even when the path seems unclear or challenging.

Solomon's wisdom in Ecclesiastes reminds me that pursuing worldly achievements and skills is ultimately vanity. When I adopt an eternal perspective, I understand that my purpose is not to chase after temporary successes but to align my life with God's will. This shift in mindset helps me to let go of jealousy and comparison, as I recognize that God has a unique journey and purpose for each of us.

The antidote to jealousy, then, is wholeheartedly trusting in God's journey for my life. Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages me to trust in the Lord with all my heart and to lean not on my own understanding. By acknowledging God in all my ways, I can trust that He will direct my paths and lead me towards the plans He has for me. This means surrendering my own desires and plans, and instead, being open to following God's path, even when it may not make sense from a worldly perspective. As I learn to trust in God's journey, I find freedom from the grip of jealousy and discover the peace that comes from walking in obedience to Him.

When I embrace the truth of the gospel, I find that it offers me satisfaction and peace from the very beginning. In Christ, I have already won the ultimate victory, and my new goal is to pursue sanctification and learn to walk in step with the Holy Spirit. This realization shifts my focus from worldly pursuits and comparisons to a deeper, more fulfilling purpose.

The apostle Paul's words in Philippians 4:11-13 challenge me to learn the secret of being content in all circumstances, whether in plenty or in need. When I root my identity and satisfaction in Christ, I discover that I can find joy and peace regardless of my external situation. This contentment comes from living for an audience of one - seeking to please and honor God above all else.

As I allow the Spirit of God to work in my heart, I find that it is the ultimate antidote to jealousy. Instead of being consumed with envy over others' successes or blessings, I can celebrate with them and find joy in their victories. This shift in perspective is only possible when I truly find my contentment in Christ alone.

In summary, the path to overcoming jealousy and finding lasting peace is through embracing the gospel and allowing it to transform my heart. As I learn to walk with the Spirit, live for God's glory, and find my ultimate satisfaction in Christ, I can experience freedom from the trap of comparison and jealousy. This journey of sanctification and growing in contentment is a lifelong process, but it is one that leads to true joy and fulfillment in Christ.

The Danger of Jealousy

1 Samuel 18:5-16

5 And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. 6 As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang to one another as they celebrated,

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12 Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul. 13 So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people.

14 And David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him. 15 And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him.

16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

Have you ever found yourself feeling envious of someone else's success? Perhaps a coworker received a promotion you had been hoping for, or a friend achieved a goal you'd been striving towards for years. In those moments, it's

easy to let jealousy take root in our hearts. However, the Bible warns us of the destructive power of jealousy, and nowhere is this more evident than in the story of David and Saul found in 1 Samuel 18:5-16. In this passage, we see how jealousy can lead to sin and damage relationships. As I studied this chapter, I couldn't help but reflect on the times I've allowed jealousy to influence my own thoughts and actions. Join me as we explore the rise of David, the jealousy of Saul, and the lessons we can learn from their experiences.

From the moment David stepped onto the battlefield and defeated Goliath, his life was on a trajectory of success. The Bible tells us that David behaved wisely in all his undertakings, and the Lord was with him (1 Samuel 18:5). As a result, David's popularity soared, and the people celebrated his victories with joyful songs and dances. I can imagine the excitement and admiration that surrounded David. It's the kind of recognition we all crave on some level - to be acknowledged for our achievements and praised for our abilities. However, as David's fame rose, seeds of jealousy were being sown in the heart of King Saul.

Saul's jealousy towards David is palpable in these verses. The Bible describes Saul as being "very angry" and says that the people's praise of David "displeased him greatly" (1 Samuel 18:8). Saul's resentment only grew as he watched David continue to succeed and gain popularity. Jealousy consumed Saul to the point where he began to view David as a threat to his own position and power. In a disturbing turn of events, Saul even attempted to kill David by hurling a spear at him - not once, but twice (1 Samuel 18:10-11). Jealousy has a way of distorting our perspective and causing us to lash out in anger or bitterness.

In the New Testament, James provides a powerful commentary on the nature of jealousy and its consequences. He contrasts worldly wisdom, which is characterized by bitter jealousy and selfish ambition, with the wisdom that comes from above, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, and full of mercy (James 3:14-17). James warns us that jealousy is not only harmful to our relationships with others but also to our own spiritual well-being. He goes so far as to say that where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice (James 3:16). These words serve as a sobering reminder of the destructive power of jealousy. When we allow it to take root in our hearts, it can lead us down a path of sin and brokenness.

So, how can we apply these lessons to our own lives? The first step is to recognize jealousy in our own hearts. This requires honesty and humility, as it can be difficult to admit when we are envious of others. Once we've acknowledged our jealousy, we must seek godly wisdom and cultivate a heart of gratitude. Instead of focusing on what others have that we don't, we can choose to celebrate their successes and trust in God's plan for our own lives. Some practical steps we can take to overcome jealousy include:

- Regularly expressing gratitude for the blessings in our lives
- Celebrating the successes and achievements of others
- Praying for those we feel jealous towards
- Focusing on our own growth and relationship with God

As we seek to align our hearts with God's wisdom, we will find that jealousy loses its grip on us, and we are free to live in joy and contentment.

The story of David and Saul in 1 Samuel 18 and the wisdom of James 3 provide a powerful warning against the dangers of jealousy. We see how jealousy can lead to anger, resentment, and even violence, as in the case of Saul. However, we also see that there is another way - the way of godly wisdom and humility. By recognizing jealousy in our own hearts and taking practical steps to overcome it, we can experience the freedom and joy that comes from living in alignment with God's will. I encourage you to take some time to examine your own life for signs of jealousy. Where do you find yourself feeling envious of others? How can you begin to cultivate a heart of gratitude and celebration? As we surrender our jealousy to God and seek His wisdom, we will find that His love has the power to transform even the most difficult of emotions. May we all experience the peace and contentment that comes from living in the light of His love.

1. Reflect on a time when you experienced jealousy towards someone else. How did it affect your thoughts, emotions, and actions? What steps did you take (or could you have taken) to overcome those feelings of jealousy?

2. In the blog post, we discussed practical steps to overcome jealousy, such as expressing gratitude, celebrating others' successes, praying for those we feel jealous towards, and focusing on our own growth and relationship with God. Which of these steps resonates with you the most, and how can you begin to incorporate it into your daily life?