

# KING DAVID — ♦ — AND HIS KING



**Jesus and Envy**– 1 Samuel 18:1-16

February 4, 2024

Envy. What comes to mind when you hear the word?

We'll likely think it's similar to jealousy, but that's only half the case. Whereas jealousy wants what the other's got, envy goes further; it wants the other to lose it completely. Of course, we rarely think about envy like this. In fact, we rarely think of it at all.

In this message, we see the way of envy in Saul's response to David, and we're invited to behold Christ, our true King, and the only real way out of it.

For personal reflection/community discussion

**Read** – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

**Examine** – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?

- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

**Apply** - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

Before hearing this message, when was the last time you gave any thought to envy? Can you remember a time in your life when you've been envious of someone? Consider Thomas Mann's comment; "we are always most vulnerable to envying those closest to our own gifts and callings. Musicians generally envy musicians, not politicians; politicians other politicians; sportspeople other sportspeople; professors other professors; ministers other ministers." Has this been true of you? When?

In Saul's response to David, we see five places envy can lead. Envy:

- Blinds us to God's goodness
- Isolates us from others
- Will disintegrate us
- Resembles Satan
- Can overwhelm us

Of these five, which do you find most disturbing and why?

- Let's consider now the way out of envy? How does seeing Christ lead to healing? Paying attention to vv.1-5, remember what Christ has done for you and how this will lead to your heart one day never longing for anything you do not have (cf Romans 8: 32).
- There is a practical step in the text too. How might Jonathan's act of blessing David be an example to us in our fight with envy?