

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 5 – Saul’s Jealousy- Saul’s Agony

1 Samuel 18:1-30

I. JEALOUSY EXPLAINED IN THE SCRIPTURES

A. OLD TESTAMENT UNDERSTANDING

- The Hebrew word “*qana*” appears over 80 times and is translated as “*envious*,” “*zealous*” or “*jealous*.”
cf. Gen. 37:11; Ps. 37:1; Prov. 27:4;

B. NEW TESTAMENT UNDERSTANDING

- The Greek word “*zeloo*” appears over 35 times and is translated as “*zeal*,” “*envy*,” “*desire*,” “*covet*” and “*jealous*.”
- Greek culture distinguished between envy and jealousy:
 - > *Envy* desires to deprive another of what they have.
 - > *Jealousy* desires to have the same things for yourself.
- Jealousy, hostility and envy are base and carnal in nature. cf. Jam. 3:15,16 Gal. 5:20-21

II. JEALOUSY EXPRESSED IN THE LIFE OF SAUL

A. Jealousy develops when people respond to others more than they respond to you! v1-9

1. Seen in the affection of Jonathan for David. v1-4
 - Jonathan, Saul’s son, admired the courageous faith he saw in David, qualities his own father greatly lacked.
2. Seen in the achievements of David. v5a
 - David had slain Goliath, and because he had put the Philistines to flight, his reputation as a leader and a warrior was spreading throughout the kingdom.
3. Seen in the acceptance of David by the people. v5-7
 - Saul believed that by singing the praises of David, the women were setting at naught his accomplishments.
4. Seen in the attitudes of Saul. v8-9
 - a) He was angry. v8
 - Because David was honored in a greater way. v8b
 - Because David was a threat to his leadership. v8c
 - b) He was suspicious. v9
 - A person’s inability to celebrate the victories of others is an indication of the smallness of their heart.
 - These actions indicate Saul’s immense pride and pathetic need for recognition and glory. cf. Jn. 12:43

B. Jealousy destroys our ability to react properly to the blessings of others. v10-16

1. Saul lost control of his emotions. v10-11

- Given over to an evil spirit, Saul attempted to “*pin David to the wall*” on three separate occasions.

2. Saul lost confidence in his abilities. v12

- The more Saul focused on David’s success, the more it disabled him from achieving his own

3. Saul lost courage before David. v15-16

- While others loved David, Saul dreaded him.
- There are many Hebrew words for “*fear*” or “*being afraid*.” The one used here (“*gur*”) is found about 10 times in the OT and means to “*standing in awe*,” as before the Lord. cf. Deut 1:17; 18:22; Ps. 22:23
- I demonstrate my ability to handle success by my response to the success of others. Thus, I qualify or disqualify myself for success on the basis of my response toward others.

C. Jealousy devises plans to put others down! v17-29

1. Saul’s Motives v17b, 21, 25

- The carnal individual desires glory for themselves, and therefore seeks to eliminate any and all competition.

2. Saul’s Methods v17a, 22

- His plans involved lying and deception. cf. Prov. 6:16-19

3. Saul’s Madness v29

- The result was greater insecurity and conflict.

D. Jealousy defeats itself because God knows every heart and will vindicate His servants. v30

- Because David responded properly, he continued to ascend, while Saul continued to descend. v5, 14, 15, 30
- Jealousy, along with the other inward sins, ultimately leads to self-despair and self-destruction. 1 Sam. 31:4
- The key to my future success is tied to my past and present responses to the success of others.
- It is Christ-like to desire to see others succeed and applaud them when they do! cf. Gal. 5:22; 1 Cor. 13:4-7