

Sermon Notes

“When God’s Favor Irks Others”

1 Samuel 18

October 8, 2017

- c. According to the text what did David’s continued success make clear concerning his relationship with the Lord?

- d. When have you felt resentful of the successes of another? What can you do about it?

5. Saul’s sin is somewhat extreme, and yet it’s only an expression of our sin farther down the road. What does Saul’s envy, anger, and fears teach you about your own? Which of Saul’s sins is your worst? Where are you in its vortex?

6. How does this conflict between Saul and David set us up to understand the life and death of Jesus?

Let’s Pray:

For our missionaries:

Ben & Jen Wood and family - ZOE International, Thailand

The Wood family just returned to Thailand after their home assignment; pray for favor with village leaders as they distribute food; pray for developing relationships that will allow for conversations and training intended to interrupt and prevent the trafficking of children.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 10-08-17

Questions adapted from Ryan Kelly, *Sermon Summary for Community Group Leaders*, 02/09/14, https://www.desertspringschurch.org/messages/Documents/2014_02_09.pdf accessed 10/7/17.

Getting Started:

1. Which sin would you argue is most destructive: gossip, wrath, or envy, and why?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Samuel 18.
 - a. The story records several reactions to David's success. What were those reactions?
 - b. In light of Jonathan's role as Saul's son, what is the significance of Jonathan's love for David?
 - c. Israel's celebration of David wasn't in contrast to Saul, but why did Saul take it the way he did?
 - d. When in your life have you been paranoid about people's opinion of you? When have you pounced on someone who posed a threat to you?

3. 1 Samuel 18:10-11 takes us back to the account in 16:14-23. Review those verses and consider the following.
 - a. Saul's condition now was far worse than being without the Lord's Spirit, for "an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him." The Hebrew word translated "evil" (Hb. *rā'â*) has a wide range of meanings from "misery" to "moral perverseness." Thus, it is possible—and perhaps preferable—to interpret the text not to mean that the Lord sent a morally corrupt demon but rather another sort of supernatural being—an angel of judgment (cf. 2 Kgs 19:35)—against Saul that caused him to experience constant misery. (Bergen, R. D. (1996). *1, 2 Samuel* (Vol. 7, p. 182). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.)
 - b. We may not know what the "harmful spirit" was, but we do know its origin, reason, and result. What were they?
4. Consider Saul's plots.
 - a. How many different attempts on David's life do you count in this chapter? What are they? If there is a progression, what is it?
 - b. How did Saul's plans either fail or actually backfire on him?