

Saul and David

1 Sam. 18:5-9

Introduction:

1. David's victory over the Philistine giant, Goliath, created a disturbing situation for King Saul.
2. All the people were pleased with David.
 - a. Saul's servants were pleased with him.
 - b. The women were pleased with him.
 - c. Saul's daughter, Michal, was pleased with him.
 - d. Saul's son, Jonathan, was pleased with him.
3. It wasn't that they were just pleased with him it was how pleased they were.
 - a. Jonathan had made a covenant with David and had given him his robe. He loved him as himself.
 - b. The women praised him in song.
 - c. Michal even married him.
4. All of this caused Saul to be angry and to view David with suspicion. He thought David might take over the kingdom.
5. Have you ever felt like someone was "one-up" on you? Ever been angry? Felt suspicious? Or perhaps you have felt like David, that no matter how hard you tried, friendship was just not possible with someone.

Discussion:

- I. Saul was against David (1 Sam. 18:10-16).
 - A. In what we have read already we can see something of the reason why.
 - B. But verse 10 adds, "An evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and he raved in the midst of the house, while David was playing the harp with his hand."
 1. This is not the first mention of "an evil spirit" having an influence on King Saul. Back in 1 Sam. 16:14 the text says, "the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him."
 2. Our question is what is "this evil spirit from the Lord?"
 - a. It is not clear to me. Is it some demonic force? Is it some mental condition? Is it just Saul rebelling against the Lord?
 - b. In 1 Sam. 15 Saul had kept back some of the spoils of the battle with the Amalekites. Samuel had condemned him of rebellion, insubordination, and rejecting the word of the Lord. Samuel said, "the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel." Saul attempted to force Samuel to honor him before the elders of the people (1 Sam. 15:22ff).
 - c. In chapter 16 God had Samuel anoint David as king.
 - d. It is out of this context that 1 Sam. 16:14 says, "the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him."
 - e. What does the text mean when it says an evil spirit **from the Lord** terrorized him? In what sense is the Lord involved here? I am not clear. I do not know. Is it that God caused him to be demon possessed? Is it that God caused him to have

some mental disorder? The ancient Jews believed that God was in control of everything. Are they saying that the evil spirit was from the Lord in the sense that we might refer to “acts of God” in an insurance policy? That is, in the sense that things that we are not in control of are “acts of God.” Ex. weather, health conditions, etc.

3. Whatever it means David’s playing on the harp was an effort at calming Saul (1 Sam. 16:14ff). In the incident in 18:10ff it was not effective and Saul attempted to kill David.

C. There are a number of terms used to describe Saul’s situation.

1. He was very angry (18:8).
2. He looked with David with suspicion (18:9).
3. He raved in the midst of the house (18:10).
4. He was afraid of David (18:12). Removed him from his presence (18:13)
5. He dreaded him (18:15).

D. Saul’s approach to David was murderous.

1. He had the evil spirit before David slew Goliath (16:14).
2. He sought to kill David on multiple occasions (ex.18:10; 19:10).
 - a. Michal saved his life (19:11ff).
 - b. David found refuge with Samuel (19:18-24).
 - c. Jonathan saved his life (20:30-34).
 - d. David fled for safety (Chapters 21-22) among the Philistines. Pretended to be a madman.

II. Everyone else seemed to be on David’s side.

A. Jonathan, Michal, Samuel, Ahimelech, even the Philistines.

B. The king of Moab (22:3ff).

C. The prophet Gad (22:5).

D. David was confident that God was on his side (22:3).

E. Saul must have felt like everyone had betrayed him for David, even the Lord.

F. David must have felt that there was nothing he could do to get right with Saul. It led to a separation between Jonathan and David (20:41-42).

III. David acted as God acts with us, but Saul did not.

A. God acts to bring victory for us, as David had brought victory for king Saul and the Israelites over Goliath (1 Cor. 15:54-57).

B. David tried to bring comfort to Saul as he played the harp for him (2 Cor. 1:3-7).

C. David did not try to destroy Saul. Saul did try to destroy David. David did not return evil

for evil (1 Pet. 2:21-23; 3:8-9; 2 Pet. 3:9).

D. There are many things in the life of David that are certainly condemnable. He was certainly no perfect individual, but in his actions toward Saul he did many right things.

E. In all of our dealings with one another we should model our behavior after God’s behavior toward us (Rom. 12:9-21).

1. This kind of behavior can transform relationships.

2. Some may not be transformed, but that does not relieve us of the responsibility to do right. David did right even though Saul did him wrong.
3. We need to do right even if we are dealing with a person like Saul. There is no occasion where we are privileged to do wrong, even if the other person does us wrong.

Conclusion:

1. Saul was a difficult individual. David had his work cut out for him.
2. When you find yourself facing a difficult individual perhaps the example of David can give you the strength to do right.
3. The people of the world spend their lives in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another (Titus 3:3). We have been there, but the kindness of our God and His love for mankind has brought about changes for us and in us (Titus 3:4).