

I. SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

A. Saul's path to destruction

1. Saul anointed king of Israel and prophesied (1 Samuel 10:6)

- a. **Humble and Obedient But Soon Fleeting** – At this time Saul was pliable and humble before God. He was like soft potter's clay in the Master Potter's hands. He was listening to God and obeying Him as he ruled over Israel. But, it didn't take long before his heart became jaded and resistant toward God. The longer he ruled, the more stubborn and compromised he became; he refused to repent or submit himself before God; he failed to acknowledge God's authority. This is the primary reason why God rejected Saul as king of Israel; the two grievous sins that the scriptures list in 1 Samuel 13 and 15 are simply the by-products of Saul's disobedience.

2. A warning to Israel & their new king

- a. *¹⁴If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. ¹⁵But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king.* 1 Samuel 12:14-15

3. King Saul commits two grievous sins against God

- a. **Saul's unlawful sacrifice:** ¹³ *And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you."* 1 Samuel 13:13-14

- i) **If He Would Have Kept God's Commands** – Saul's Kingdom would have been established forever.
- ii) **Consequences Of His Actions** – Since he didn't, his kingdom would not endure (his kingdom would not be passed down through his descendants).
- iii) **A New Plan** – In turn, God sought a man after His own heart, a preview of the character of the new king to be.
- iv) **Saul's First Grievous Sin** – This was the beginning of God's rejection of Saul, but this was an opportunity for Saul to get right with the LORD. Saul's stubbornness and refusal to repent and subjugate himself before God's authority prevented this from happening.
- v) **Israelite Kingship & Function** – Regardless of how we interpret Samuel's condemnation in verses 13–14, this episode illustrates the way Israelite kingship was intended to function. The king was not free to initiate warfare whenever and against whomever he wished. He had to answer to a higher authority. He could only receive marching orders from Yahweh and his prophet—in this case, Samuel. Thus, the text demonstrates the unique nature of the Israelite version of ancient Near Eastern monarchy as well as the unique nature of prophecy in Israel. Standing beside every Israelite king was to be a prophet speaking God's word for the situation. The degree to which the king obeyed or rejected that prophetic word was the determining factor in the Bible's evaluation of his reign. In a sense, Yahweh remained Israel's king, represented by his prophet, who ordered Yahweh's anointed one (Arnold, 195-196).

- b. **The second grievous sin: failure to comply with the word of the LORD to completely destroy the Amalekites** – ²*Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'I have noted what Amalek (the Amalekites) did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. ³Now go and strike Amalek (the Amalekites) and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them ("destroy everything that they have. Don't spare them." (NET Bible), but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'*" (1 Samuel 15:2-3) (ESV)

- i) **Samuel confronts Saul** – ¹⁸*The Lord sent you on a campaign saying, 'Go and exterminate those sinful Amalekites! Fight against them until you have destroyed them.'* (1 Samuel 15:18) (NET Bible)

4. God rejects Saul as king of Israel (1 Samuel 15)

- a. **God regrets making Saul king** – ¹⁰*The word of the Lord came to Samuel: ¹¹"I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments." And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night.* (1 Samuel 15:10-11) (ESV)

- b. **Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord?** – Samuel said to Saul, *for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel!*” (NET Bible)
 i) Because of Saul’s stubbornness and his refusal to repent before the most High, God rejects him as King over Israel. (Remember Saul had been King for about 25 years to this point)
- c. **Saul tears Samuel’s robe** – ²⁷*When Samuel turned to leave, Saul grabbed the edge of his robe and it tore. ²⁸Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to one of your colleagues who is better than you! ²⁹ The Preeminent One of Israel does not go back on his word or change his mind, for he is not a human being who changes his mind.”* (1 Samuel 15:27-29 (NET Bible)
 i) Samuel was telling Saul that the kingdom has been given to another that is better than him and this judgement is permanent!

B. Jealousy

1. **A powerful emotion** – Jealousy is a complex emotion, a driving force that will control you, that has the potential to fuel damaging behavior if left unchecked.
⁶ *When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. ⁷ This was their song: “Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!” ⁸ This made Saul very angry. “What’s this?” he said. “They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they’ll be making him their king!” ⁹ So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.*
- a. **Contributing Factors** – Through Saul’s life as King of Israel, we have an example of what not to do! To reiterate what has already been said, he became stubborn and compromised; he refused to repent or subjugate himself before God, he failed to acknowledge God’s authority, he simply self-destructed. After God **REJECTED** him as King (1 Samuel 15:26) and the spirit of the LORD departed from him (1 Samuel 16:14) and when the harmful spirit from the LORD that come upon him from time to time; he would let his emotions get away from him, his fear of man and more specifically his jealousy which drove his desire to kill David, propagated destruction all around him.
- b. **Motive** – Saul knew that David was going to be the next King of Israel, he unwittingly characterizes David as Israel’s next king in 1 Samuel 16:19, he suspects this in 1 Samuel 18:6-9 and through his actions and posture toward David in chapters 18,19. Though chapter 20 doesn’t state it specifically that David would be king, the passage certainly implies that Saul was certain of it in verses 30 to 31; however, Saul does confirm it in chapter 24:20. Jonathan and Saul both knew David would be king (20:15; 23:17; 24:20)
- i) **Unwittingly Characterizes as King** – 1 Sam. 19–23 Again Saul, influenced by a servant’s suggestion, sent for the man described: Jesse’s son—here, for only the second time so far, identified by the name David (v. 19). Saul’s reference to David as being “with the sheep” thus identifies him as a shepherd and uses “language which refers allusively to him as a kingly figure” (Walters, 575). Like Jesse earlier (cf. v. 11) and then Saul’s servant (cf. v. 18), Saul unwittingly characterizes David as Israel’s next king.
- ii) **A Shepherd Like God** – By contrast, David, a shepherd like God, was God’s choice for king, a man after his own heart. David lived by the words of the Torah, keeping the Lord always before him. When he sinned with Bathsheba, he was beside himself with sorrow, because he knew he had turned from God (Vander Laan, Ray).
- iii) **What More Can He have but the Kingdom** – 1 Sam.18:7-9, *“Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands,” this displeased him. What More Can He have but the Kingdom.* (ESV) *So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.* (NLT)
- iv) **Enemies forever** – 1 Sam. 18:29, *“Saul became even more afraid of him, and he remained David’s enemy for the rest of his life.”* (NLT)
- v) **Saul tries to kill David** – 1 Sam. 19:1-2, *“Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David. But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David, 2 told him what his father was planning. “Tomorrow morning,” he warned him, “you must find a hiding place out in the fields.”* (NLT)
- vi) **Never to be king** – 1 Sam. 20:30-31, *Saul boiled with rage at Jonathan. “You stupid son of a whore!” he swore at him. “Do you think I don’t know that you want him to be king in your place, shaming yourself and your mother? 31 As long as that son of Jesse is alive, you’ll never be king. Now go and get him so I can kill him!”* (NLT)
- vii) **Saul confirms David will be king** – 1 Sam. 24:20, *“Now I know for certain you will be king, and the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.”* (CSB)

- c. **Hardened Heart** – When his hostility was first openly declared, his eagerness to seize upon his enemy (David) carried him to such a length that he got into the company of prophets at Ramah, and was so completely overpowered by the Spirit of God dwelling there, that he lay before Samuel for a whole day in a state of prophetic ecstasy (1 Samuel 19:22.). But this irresistible power of the Spirit of God over him produced no change of heart (Keil and Delitzsch).
- i) **The turning point** – After David is anointed king and the spirit of God came upon him mightily, we see a distinct contrast between David and Saul, the Spirit of God rests on David and the Spirit of God departed from Saul. We see David’s rise as well as Saul’s decline and this will be the theme for the rest of 1 Samuel. One other thing to note, not only did the Spirit of God departed from Saul but a distressing spirit came upon him to torment him. This was a judgment from God for Saul’s disobedience, but it was also a blessing for David in the midst of his great challenges.
1. **Judgement** – Saul didn’t keep God’s commandment, God’s judgment or edict for the consequences of his actions were a distressing spirit that came upon him to torment him. Remember, God rejected Saul as king in chapter 15, but the operative word is REJECTED not removed! Saul remained king approximately another 15 to 25 years depending on what scholarship you’re leaning toward.
 2. **Blessing in the midst of great challenge** – After Samuel anointed David as King, the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, but he didn’t sit on the throne for approximately the same time frame as Saul remained King. In both cases this wouldn’t have been the norm but in God’s economy this was the perfect opportunity for David. God orchestrated a plan through this opportunity for David, a shepherd boy, to live in the king’s court to watch and learn how to be a king. David needed more than just a training ground; he needed great favor and a high-level ally/friend in the king’s court to help him endure the difficulties yet to come. God provided this through David’s successes and through the crown prince Jonathan. One thing to note, Saul was never given this kind of opportunity, since he was compromised by the fact that Israel never had kingdom or king before, he simply had to wing it. This gets you thinking, could this have been another contributing factor into Saul’s decline in darkness.
 - a. **A quote** – “I wonder how many people think that David, after he killed the giant, within a matter of just a few days took the throne and became the youngest king in the history of Israel? Well, in case you were one who thought that, you need to know it didn’t happen that way. As a matter of fact, the aftermath of the giant-killing led David into one of the deepest, longest, and darkest valleys of his entire life. This young man who had proved himself faithful among the sheep and on the battlefield went from the highest pinnacle of popularity to the lowest depression of despair.” (Swindoll)
 - ii) **Souls in conflict** – By contrast, God was a living reality in David's life—this wasn't true for Saul. What marked the difference between these two men was what they did when they were alone. David worshiped God; he meditated upon his Lord day and night when he was alone, by contrast, Saul was self-indulgent. What a man does when he is alone with his thoughts will decide what he is when he is in public with other people. It is there that either by self-indulgence a man's character is wrecked, or by self-discipline a man's character is made. In self-reflection, that should tell you something (my emphasis). (Redpath, 41)
 - iii) **Alone with God** – David nourished his soul in the Lord. He lived and walked in fellowship with God. He knew what it was to abide under the shadow of the almighty, to hide in the secret of God's pavilion. Through this, he learned to bear criticism, from those that should have known better(1 Samuel 17:28 Eliab's anger). That was possible only because his heart was in tune with God; David learned that to be strong is to be gentle when provoked, and that the Lord would give him strength in the battle. (Redpath, 44)
 1. Psalms 91:1-2 – ¹ He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." (NKJV)
 - iv) **The contrast** – On the one hand, sin, jealousy, bitterness, hatred, murder; on the other hand, gentleness and meekness. On the one hand, because of all the sin and hatred, there was powerlessness in the fight. On the other hand, the man with a gentle and meek spirit, who had meditated upon the laws of God, became mighty to conquer the power of darkness. (Redpath, 44)
 1. Where do you fit into that picture so far?

2. Are you a soul in decline or moral deterioration, or a soul in growth?
3. Is your life declining because it is self-indulgent, or are you growing because in the secret place your life found its source deep in the lord?
4. What do you think about when you are alone?
5. What does the enemy (my emphasis) do with your mind when you are by yourself?

II. DAVID'S STRUGGLE UNDER PRESSURE

A. 1 Samuel 19

1. End of chapter 19

- a. Is the record of how David, having escaped from his home through the window when his wife gave him warning that Saul's messengers were coming to kill him, rushed to seek shelter with the prophet Samuel. Saul sent messengers to kill him there at Naioth in Ramah, and still more messengers, and eventually came himself in a desperate effort to finish David forever. The story closes by recounting how one after another the assassins sent by the king, and then King Saul himself, were held in the grip of the Spirit of God, spellbound and unable to touch David (Redpath).
 - i) This reminds the reader of **Psalm 59**, where David later beseeched the LORD, "Look! They set an ambush for me. Powerful men attack me, but not because of any sin or rebellion of mine. For no fault of mine, they run and take up a position" (vv. 3-4 CSB). themcc.org

B. 1 Samuel 20

1. Verses 1-10

- a. David was desperate to know of his status before the king (1 Sam 20.1-10). Perhaps most infuriating to David was that fact that he had done Saul no wrong (1 Sam 20.1). David was in such trepidation that he swore to Jonathan, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live, there is but a step between me and death" (1 Sam 20.3 CSB). The dialogue between David and Jonathan reveals that David was especially concerned to know for certain of Saul's disposition toward him, which was eventually revealed when David was absent from the New Moon festival (1 Sam 20.3-10). themcc.org
 - i) **Faith tested** – We find David going through a trial which tested his faith and endurance to the very limit. Indeed, every outward circumstance of David's life at this time seemed to give the lie to all the promises of God. (Redpath)
 - ii) **A step between me and death** – David did not agree with Jonathan's naïve view of Saul. This is the first time we see David struggling with strong fears (Bickle).
 - iii) **David's plan** – David's plan was designed to expose Saul's true intentions. The plan safeguarded David and avoided any use of force, though it required that Jonathan lie to his father (20:5-7) (Bickle).
 - iv) **The simple plan of David** – The vocabulary of v. 5 (which begins the drama) is echoed in that of v. 24 (which begins the second half of the chapter). David's plan (vv. 5-7) is simple: If Saul accepts Jonathan's explanation for David's absence from the forthcoming New Moon festival celebration, then David is safe; but if Saul becomes angry, then Jonathan will know that Saul is bent on harming David (Youngblood).
 - v) **Be loyal and kind** – Jonathan, as son of the king, had power to hurt David. But Jonathan had made a promise with David (18:3-4). David reminded Jonathan about this promise. And he asked Jonathan to be loyal and kind. David deserved to die if he had not been loyal to Saul. David wanted Jonathan, rather than Saul, to kill him. But David had been loyal to Saul. Saul wanted to kill David only because he was jealous of David (Pocock)
 1. **Preference for dying** – David's willingness to die "if I am guilty" would later be echoed by his son Absalom (2 Sam 14:32), though neither man believed himself deserving of death. David voiced his preference for dying at the hand of his covenanted friend Jonathan ("yourself" is emphatic) instead of his sworn enemy Saul (Youngblood).
 2. **Kind** – In verses 8, 14 and 15, the word 'kind' is a very strong word. It means to promise to give loyal love. It refers to the way that God promises to show his loyal love to us. David and Jonathan's love for each other was like God's love (Pocock)

2. Verses 11-24

- a. Despite what it might cost him personally, Jonathan planned to protect David from Saul's rage (1 Sam 20.11-24). Since David planned to avoid Saul and the New Moon festival in the king's court, he questioned Jonathan, "Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?" (1 Sam 20:10 CSB). Jonathan replied in an extended monologue which demonstrated covenant-loyalty for David (1 Sam 20:11-17). Jonathan's pledge to David included calling God as a witness of his truthfulness regarding Saul's reaction to his absence at the New Moon

feast (1 Sam 20:11-13), and a request that David treat his family with fidelity even if Saul wished David dead, “because he loved him as he loved himself” (1 Sam 20:17 CSB). Jonathan set forth a specific plan for letting David know of Saul’s reaction to his absence (1 Sam 20:18-24); the direction Jonathan directed the archer’s assistant would inform David of Saul’s intentions. (themcc.org)

i) **Jonathan with David shared his plan to give him information about Saul (20:10-13).**

1. **A Parallel Phrase From Genesis** – Cain had said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field” (Ge 4:8), and used the privacy it afforded to kill him. By contrast Jonathan said the same thing to his covenanted brother David (v. 11), but used the privacy of the field to assure him of his undying loyalty. The fact that David and Jonathan went to the field “together” (lit., “the two of them”) underscores their close relationship and is reminiscent of the description of Abraham and Isaac at Moriah (Ge 22:6, 8) (Youngblood).

¹⁰Then David said to Jonathan, “Who will tell me, or what if your father answers you roughly?”

¹¹Jonathan said to David, “Come, let us go out into the field.” So both of them went out into the field.

¹²Jonathan said to David: “The LORD God of Israel is witness! When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, or the third day...if it pleases my father to do you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. (1 Sam. 20:11-12)

ii) **If Saul is planning evil** – Jonathan promised to report any negative plans that Saul revealed to him. If Saul had planned evil, the risks for executing this plan would be high for Jonathan and David.

iii) **Jonathan reaffirmed his covenant with David, asking David to protect his family (20:14-17).**

¹⁴And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; ¹⁵but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David... ” ¹⁶Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “Let the LORD require it at the hand of David’s enemies. ” ¹⁷Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul. (1 Sam. 20:14-17)

iv) **Jonathan’s request of David** – Initially David asked Jonathan to protect him when Jonathan executed their plan with Saul (20:8). Now the roles are reversed as Jonathan asks David to promise to protect him and his descendants in the purges that occur when a new king takes office (20:14-15).

v) **When the LORD cuts off David’s enemies** – Jonathan recognized the coming kingship of David and that the Lord would remove his enemies in due time, including the Philistines and Saul (20:15).

1. **The Lord’s presence with David** – To the assessment of others concerning the Lord’s presence “with” David (see 16:18; 17:37; 18:12, 14, 28), Jonathan now adds his own prayer to the same end (v. 13). In so doing he parallels David’s divine calling with that of Saul and thus recognizes that David, and not he himself (Saul’s disobedience had long since forfeited an enduring kingdom for himself and his descendants) (13:13–14) will be the next king of Israel (Youngblood).

2. **David’s enemies included Saul** – By now Jonathan surely perceives that among David’s “enemies” (v. 15; cf. also v. 16), whom he predicts will be cut off, is his own father, Saul (cf. 18:29; 19:17).

vi) **Jonathan had more faith in David’s calling** – During this time, Jonathan had more faith in God’s promises for David than David had for his own life. Sometimes we believe God’s promise for others more than for our life (Bickle).

vii) **Jonathan’s love** – Jonathan’s motivation of this political covenant was genuine love for David.

viii) **Jonathan caused David to vow** – Jonathan asked David to solemnly renew his vow to Jonathan’s house or family line (20:17). He did this because he was convinced that David would be king.

ix) **Jonathan and David kept their promises** – David showed kindness to Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth, by giving him his father’s land and a place in David’s court (2 Sam 9:1-13; 16:1-4; 19:25-30; 21:7). David took initiative in this by asking, “Is there anybody from Jonathan’s house?” (2 Sam. 9:1).

¹David said, “Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” ...⁷David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather...” ¹³So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king’s table. (2 Sam. 9:1-13)

3. Verses 25-34

a. On the day after the New Moon, Jonathan discovered Saul’s plan for David (1 Sam 20:25-34). The text is vivid: “Saul became angry with Jonathan and shouted, ‘You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don’t I know that you are siding with Jesse’s son to your own shame and to the disgrace of your mother? Every day Jesse’s son lives on earth you and your kingship are not secure. Now send for him and bring him to me—he deserves to die’ (1 Sam 20:30-31 CSB). At this point in his life, Saul epitomized what David wrote in Psalms

36: “Even on his bed he makes malicious plans. He sets himself on a path that is not good and does not reject evil” (v. 4 CSB). Saul’s schemes against David revealed that he was more concerned for his place on the throne than Jonathan’s royal status: “Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him, so he knew that his father was determined to kill David” (1 Sam 20:33)! Jonathan had his answer as to Saul’s reaction about David’s absence from the festival. (themcc.org)

- i) **Saul’s anger** – Saul accused Jonathan of helping David to destroy the family dynasty.
- ii) **If the son of Jesse lives** – The king warned Jonathan that he would lose his right to kingship.
 1. This may seem like Saul was concerned about protecting Jonathan’s rightful position to be the next king of Israel, but really it was ploy to continue His own reign as king.
- iii) **Standing for truth** – Jonathan paid a heavy price for standing for truth and the relationships associated with it. He showed his loyalty by resisting Saul’s lures as he stood with David (Bickle).
- iv) **Saul cast a spear at him to kill him** – Since Jonathan chose to identify with David, Saul treated him like David, throwing a spear at him. After this, Jonathan knew that Saul determined to kill David.

4. Verses 35-42

a. Jonathan informed David of Saul’s plans and the friends were forced to part ways (1 Sam 20:35-42). After sending the archer’s assistant away, Jonathan kissed David, and they “wept with each other, though David wept more” (1 Sam 20:41). The friendship of Jonathan and David has rightly been used to tutor many young people of the kind of devotion it takes to make a friendship work. Yet, one should not leave the LORD out of the picture—because the friendship of Jonathan and David was grounded in a spiritual covenant. The depth of their loyalty is illustrative of what Jesus said later, words that show His supremacy in the storyline of Scripture. Just after He washed His disciples’ feet—an act that would foreshadow His crucifixion—Jesus commanded His disciples: “I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). (themcc.org)

- i) **They kissed each other and wept together**
- ii) **Personal greetings** - Both Peter & Paul comment on this customary or usual practice of a holy kiss as a greeting.
 1. Rom.16:16, “with a holy kiss” – A customary greeting that signified fellowship and unity within the body of Christ. See 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thess 5:26; 1 Pet 5:14. *Faithlife Study Bible*
- iii) **Calling God as a witness** – Calling God a witness to their covenant of family loyalty, Jonathan and David separated, with only one subsequent meeting recorded in Scripture (cf. 1 Sam 23:15-18). Perhaps it was while he was departing from Jonathan that David was inspired to write, “My spirit is weak within me; my heart is overcome with dismay” (Ps 143:4). (themcc.org)
- iii) **Everlasting oath** – Since covenants by nature and definition involve reciprocal obligations (v. 42), Jonathan also has David reaffirm his side of the agreement (v. 17), in context with the covenantal language of 18:1, 3: “He loved him as [he loved] himself.” Jonathan magnanimously uses the emphatic “we” as he reminds David of their mutual—and everlasting—oath of friendship (cf. vv. 17, 23). They had sworn to each other “in the name of the LORD” (cf. Dt 6:13; 10:20), thus employing an oath that the Decalogue solemnly warned the ancient Israelites not to “misuse” (Ex 20:7 = Dt 5:11; cf. also Lev 19:12). The covenant between Jonathan and David included their “descendants forever” (cf. v. 15 and comment; cf. also 24:21) (Youngblood).

¹⁷ *And Jonathan made David reaffirm his vow of friendship again, for Jonathan loved David as he loved himself.* ²³ *And may the Lord make us keep our promises to each other, for he has witnessed them.”* (NLT)

III. LESSON POINTS (APPLICATION)

A. Unchecked Emotions

1. **Emotions Are Complex** – from the context (1 Samuel chapter 18,19) of this passage we understand that jealousy is the driving force which sets the stage for 1 Samuel 20. Jealousy is a complex negative emotion that can overwhelm and control you, if left unchecked, it can be very destructive. Saul’s destructive jealousy is actualized in 1 Samuel 22:18-21, where he orders the death of the priests of the LORD.
 - a. **Something to Ponder** – God created us to experience emotions, however there are Godly and ungodly methods to managing them. Your emotions originate from your thoughts which move you to actions. If your emotions are based upon lying thoughts (those that do not agree with God’s word) then they can lead you to take ungodly actions. *Healing Negative Emotions*

- i) **Here's an example** – Saul believed that if he killed David he would remain as king but this was based on a lying thought that didn't agree with God's word, which led him to take ungodly actions.
- ii) **Lying thoughts from the enemy** – From time to time the enemy puts lying thoughts into our minds to invoke destruction, "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I (Yeshua) came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*" - John 10:10 (ESV). Our peace comes when we align our minds according to His, 2 Corinthians 10:5: "*and every proud thing that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ.*" (NCV)
 1. **Be intentional** – Check yourself to see if your thoughts agree with His word
 2. **What must I do to change my thinking?** – Ask yourself, "What changes must I make to implement this?"
 3. **Take your thoughts captive** – In accordance with 2 Corinthians 10:5, we must take our thoughts captive so that we can obey Christ which leads us to Godly actions.
 4. **Feelings don't make it true** – Just because you "feel" an emotion doesn't mean that the thought behind it is true.

B. The Importance of Our Relationships

1. **Our Vertical Relationship** – We must foster our personal relationship with God at all cost. Everything that we do flows from this relationship. In its absolute simplest form we need to praise Him, serve Him, talk to Him, pray to Him and listen, and seek to know Him. We also look to Him for guidance and act in obedience, trust/have faith in Him seeking Him with all of our heart, mind and soul.
2. **Horizontal Relationships** – We must foster our personal relationships with one another. These kingdom friendships aren't just a nice thing to have, they are absolutely necessary, we are dependent on each other whether we like or not. No man is an island. It's by design—we can't accomplish our calling from God without each other. He calls us to come together once a week to worship Him, He calls us to pray together, He calls us to bear each other burdens and the list goes on and on. We need one another to walk out our calling.

C. Our Human Proclivities

1. **Our Human Examples Are Not Perfect** – David was the greatest human king that Israel ever had but he didn't have super powers. He wasn't a Marvel character, he was human, just like you and me. He had the same nature and short-comings. He wasn't perfect, but I think that's the point that God is making through this example. As profound and as important as his calling was he still needed God for his protection, provision, and direction. Simply put, the human king was dependent on God for all his needs, God's hand was on David for all of these things, despite his short comings (imperfections). David remained humble, repentant, and submitted before God, this is why he is called a man after God's own heart.
 - a. **Perfection Isn't Required To Serve** – Use David's example: be humble, repentant and submit yourself before God. Remember you're not perfect, and you will make mistakes; but don't let those mistakes define you.

IV. REFERENCES

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1 Samuel 20 New Living Translation (NLT)

Jonathan Helps David

¹ David now fled from Naioth in Ramah and found Jonathan. “What have I done?” he exclaimed. “What is my crime? How have I offended your father that he is so determined to kill me?” ² “That’s not true!” Jonathan protested. “You’re not going to die. He always tells me everything he’s going to do, even the little things. I know my father wouldn’t hide something like this from me. It just isn’t so!” ³ Then David took an oath before Jonathan and said, “Your father knows perfectly well about our friendship, so he has said to himself, ‘I won’t tell Jonathan—why should I hurt him?’ But I swear to you that I am only a step away from death! I swear it by the Lord and by your own soul!” ⁴ “Tell me what I can do to help you,” Jonathan exclaimed. ⁵ David replied, “Tomorrow we celebrate the new moon festival. I’ve always eaten with the king on this occasion, but tomorrow I’ll hide in the field and stay there until the evening of the third day. ⁶ If your father asks where I am, tell him I asked permission to go home to Bethlehem for an annual family sacrifice. ⁷ If he says, ‘Fine!’ you will know all is well. But if he is angry and loses his temper, you will know he is determined to kill me. ⁸ Show me this loyalty as my sworn friend—for we made a solemn pact before the Lord—or kill me yourself if I have sinned against your father. But please don’t betray me to him!” ⁹ “Never!” Jonathan exclaimed. “You know that if I had the slightest notion my father was planning to kill you, I would tell you at once.”

¹⁰ Then David asked, “How will I know whether or not your father is angry?” ¹¹ “Come out to the field with me,” Jonathan replied. And they went out there together. ¹² Then Jonathan told David, “I promise by the Lord, the God of Israel, that by this time tomorrow, or the next day at the latest, I will talk to my father and let you know at once how he feels about you. If he speaks favorably about you, I will let you know. ¹³ But if he is angry and wants you killed, may the Lord strike me and even kill me if I don’t warn you so you can escape and live. May the Lord be with you as he used to be with my father. ¹⁴ And may you treat me with the faithful love of the Lord as long as I live. But if I die, ¹⁵ treat my family with this faithful love, even when the Lord destroys all your enemies from the face of the earth.”

¹⁶ So Jonathan made a solemn pact with David,^[a] saying, “May the Lord destroy all your enemies!” ¹⁷ And Jonathan made David reaffirm his vow of friendship again, for Jonathan loved David as he loved himself. ¹⁸ Then Jonathan said, “Tomorrow we celebrate the new moon festival. You will be missed when your place at the table is empty. ¹⁹ The day after tomorrow, toward evening, go to the place where you hid before, and wait there by the stone pile.^[b] ²⁰ I will come out and shoot three arrows to the side of the stone pile as though I were shooting at a target. ²¹ Then I will send a boy to bring the arrows back. If you hear me tell him, ‘They’re on this side,’ then you will know, as surely as the Lord lives, that all is well, and there is no trouble. ²² But if I tell him, ‘Go farther—the arrows are still ahead of you,’ then it will mean that you must leave immediately, for the Lord is sending you away. ²³ And may the Lord make us keep our promises to each other, for he has witnessed them.” ²⁴ So David hid himself in the field, and when the new moon festival began, the king sat down to eat. ²⁵ He sat at his usual place against the wall, with Jonathan sitting opposite him^[c] and Abner beside him. But David’s place was empty. ²⁶ Saul didn’t say anything about it that day, for he said to himself, “Something must have made David ceremonially unclean.” ²⁷ But when David’s place was empty again the next day, Saul asked Jonathan, “Why hasn’t the son of Jesse been here for the meal either yesterday or today?” ²⁸ Jonathan replied, “David earnestly asked me if he could go to Bethlehem. ²⁹ He said, ‘Please let me go, for we are having a family sacrifice. My brother demanded that I be there. So please let me get away to see my brothers.’ That’s why he isn’t here at the king’s table.” ³⁰ Saul boiled with rage at Jonathan. “You stupid son of a whore!”^[d] he swore at him. “Do you think I don’t know that you want him to be king in your place, shaming yourself and your mother? ³¹ As long as that son of Jesse is alive, you’ll never be king. Now go and get him so I can kill him!” ³² “But why should he be put to death?” Jonathan asked his father. “What has he done?” ³³ Then Saul hurled his spear at Jonathan, intending to kill him. So at last Jonathan realized that his father was really determined to kill David. ³⁴ Jonathan left the table in fierce anger and refused to eat on that second day of the festival, for he was crushed by his father’s shameful behavior toward David. ³⁵ The next morning, as agreed, Jonathan went out into the field and took a young boy with him to gather his arrows. ³⁶ “Start running,” he told the boy, “so you can find the arrows as I shoot them.” So the boy ran, and Jonathan shot an arrow beyond him. ³⁷ When the boy had almost reached the arrow, Jonathan shouted, “The arrow is still ahead of you. ³⁸ Hurry, hurry, don’t wait.” So the boy quickly gathered up the arrows and ran back to his master. ³⁹ He, of course, suspected nothing; only Jonathan and David understood the signal. ⁴⁰ Then Jonathan gave his bow and arrows to the boy and told him to take them back to town. ⁴¹ As soon as the boy was gone, David came out from where he had been hiding near the stone pile.^[e] Then David bowed three times to Jonathan with his face to the ground. Both of them were in tears as they embraced each other and said good-bye, especially David. ⁴² At last Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn loyalty to each other in the Lord’s name. The Lord is the witness of a bond between us and our children forever.” Then David left, and Jonathan returned to the town.^[f]

Footnotes:

20:16 Hebrew with the house of David.

20:19 Hebrew the stone Ezel. The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain.

20:25 As in Greek version; Hebrew reads with Jonathan standing.

20:30 Hebrew You son of a perverse and rebellious woman.

20:41 As in Greek version; Hebrew reads near the south edge.

20:42 This sentence is numbered 21:1 in Hebrew text.

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