

SUMMARY AND REVIEW

Take 5-10 minutes to discuss this week's sermon, *The Madness of King Saul*, 1 Samuel 18:6-12

READ 1 Samuel 15:1-29; 18:5-16, 24-30

INTRO TO THE TEXT:

These passages give us a glimpse of a terrible heart problem deep in the core of King Saul: Pride and lust. At first, Saul's sin may seem non-existent and taken out of proportion, for Saul *did* obey the Lord. He did indeed attack the Amalekites and won a great victory over them. Yet, he wasn't commanded by God just to defeat them; he was commanded to destroy them. The reality is, *partial obedience is disobedience*. God appointed a King over his people to reign as an ambassador for himself. The King was never meant to take the place of God, which is exactly what Saul had done: he felt he knew better than God and could make wiser decisions concerning God's people and God's land. Because of this, God disciplined him and sent Samuel to give him a message: I will replace you as king.

We then jump to Chapter 18 where it is evident that King Saul has *not* taken this news of David replacing him as king well. He has forgotten that he did not make himself king: God chose him, and God has the right to take him off the throne. Yet, once again his pride and lust for power overflows out of his heart and into all his actions.

Though a riveting drama, this story must be remembered in the grander narrative of scripture: God will raise up a King, which is promised in Hannah's song. Yet, Saul has fallen short and is not the king whom we had hoped he would be. We see throughout this text and others that "God is with David", placing him as an Immanuel figure. Interestingly, the harder Saul tries to stop God's plans from coming to fruition the faster they spin *into* place.

RE-READ 1 Sam. 18:5-6, 24-30

ANALYZE THE TEXT

1. List every verb or adjective related to Saul. Now list all those related to David. What do you think the author's intention is in contrasting these character's so drastically?
2. What is the root problem in Saul's heart identified in v. 8? How does this affect everything he does?
3. The parallels between David and Jesus are astounding, which we will see later in our series. For now, what descriptions of David in chapter 18 are like what we find concerning Jesus in the New Testament?

APPLY

1. Bitterness, anger, jealousy, lust...these are all things that can easily take root in any of our lives and make us become almost different people. Have you ever personally experienced this in your own life? How did you give your anger, bitterness, etc. to the Lord? Do you still feel enslaved by it? How can your small group pray for you in this?
2. Saul wanted to destroy David, meaning he ultimately wanted to destroy the Lord (for the Lord was with David). Yet, the harder he tried to persecute him, the more quickly God's plans came to fruition. Do you see areas in Houston, our country or our world where people, systems, etc. are after God's goodness (whether they realize that is what they want to kill)? How can we, as the church body, stand firm when we feel surrounded on all sides?

MEMORIZE Psalm 18:48