

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 30: Chapter 18, Hatred towards David

27 January 2017

It is important to remember that you are equally capable of committing ungodly acts similar to that of Saul if you yield to your flesh or to an unholy spirit rather than yielding to God's Holy Spirit.

FOUR ASPECTS OF SAUL'S HATRED TOWARD DAVID

Keep in mind that these characteristics developed over time; not overnight. Saul's true character came out after years of putting on a good front.

1. SELFISHNESS (Vss. 1-6)

- a. Saul knew some things about David, but he didn't know David (17:55).
 - i. Many people know some facts about Jesus, but they don't know Him.
 - b. Saul made David his servant (vs. 2), just as Samuel had warned (1 Sam. 8:11).
 - i. As long as David was serving Saul and helping him to advance and making him look good, there was no problem.
 - i. When David began to increase in dominance, Saul wanted to get rid of him.
 - c. People today prefer the Jesus who will serve, bless, and do good things for them.
 - i. When God shows them in the Bible that they are supposed to give up their lives to serve Jesus, they look for ways to stay on the throne and get rid of Jesus.
 - ii. John the Baptist was happy to step down and let Jesus be preeminent (Jn. 3:30).
-

2. ENVY (Vs. 8) (Proverbs 14:30)

- a. Saul was quite pleased as long as things were going his way and he was the one being honored.
 - i. When Saul saw that David was being praised more than he was, envy sprouted in him.
 - b. Christians today are content to serve in the church as long as they get recognition for everything they do and credit for everything they give.
 - i. We ought to be glad that God is honored and God's people can benefit from our service.
 - ii. We ought to be excited to see what God is doing in our lives and in our church.
 - iii. We ought to be able to rejoice whenever we see ANYBODY doing something for Christ. (See Philippians 1:15-18). _____
 - iv. The example of Moses (Num. 11:26-30) _____
 - i. What are your motives for serving? _____
-

3. HATRED (Vss. 10-11)

- a. Envy had turned to hatred. Saul hated David so much that he wanted to murder him (1 Jn. 3:15). See 1 John 2:9-11.
 - b. The Scribes and Pharisees got to this stage (and the next stage) of opposition against Jesus Christ (Matthew 12:14, Mark 3:6, Luke 6:11, John 5:18, 11:53, 57).
-

4. EVIL SCHEMING, DEVICES, CUNNING CRAFTS

- a. Saul put together a plan that he thought would guarantee David's death in battle. He made him a captain over a thousand men (Vss. 12-16).
 - i. This plan didn't work because David "behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him" (Vs. 14).
 - b. The next scheme Saul had was to offer David his daughters hoping that an unequal yoke (believer with unbeliever; 2 Cor. 6:14) would destroy him (Vss. 17-21).
 - i. David's discretion prevented him from entering into this unholy union.
 - c. Saul's third attempt was to send David out into battle to kill a hundred Philistines (Vss. 22-27). He thought the odds were against David surviving.
 - i. God saved David again and made him even more admirable.
-

Consider Satan's hatred for Jesus Christ and His Body (the Church).

1. Selfishness: Satan was the god of this world and wanted all the worship.
2. Envy: Jesus was being exalted and Satan wasn't happy with that.
3. Hatred: Satan wanted to murder Jesus.
4. Scheming: Satan, working through the religious leaders and the Roman leaders, used cunning crafts to get Jesus to the cross, but he failed keep Jesus down (in the tomb) so that he could lift himself up.

The scheming continues today:

Through the centuries, Satan has had many strategies to try and destroy the Body of Christ.

1. The church grew rapidly in the first 50-150 years. Satan attempted to put the church in the preeminent place to destroy its effectiveness. He created a "church state."
 - a. Satan's plan was defeated because there always remained a remnant of true believers.
 2. Next Satan tried to implement an unequal yoke; a union with other religions, charitable humanitarian groups, worldly techniques to increase membership, etc.
 3. All-out-war against the church: false religions, political power, armed might, worldliness, increased activity of unclean spirits, false doctrines. Satan has been trying to overwhelm the saints since 1881.
 - a. The small remnant of believers keep Satan's plans from succeeding.
-

Step 1 for the Christian: *rid your life of selfishness. If you'll do that, you won't have to worry about envy, hatred, or devices against others.*