

Character Study: Saul

Part 3 – Saul’s Jealousy and Death

I Samuel 16-31

What’s happening?

- After Saul’s disobedience, the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him. (16:14)
- Saul’s servants brought in David to play his harp for the king. Whenever he played the harp, Saul’s distressing spirit would leave him. Saul loved David and made him his armor bearer. (16:15-23)
- After a victorious battle over the Philistines in which David killed Goliath, David gained popularity among the Israelites. When Saul heard the people praising David, he grew very jealous. (17:1-18:9)
- Saul became afraid of David because it was clear God was with him. Despite this, however, Saul tried multiple times to kill David. (18:10-28:2)
- When the Lord quit speaking to Saul, Saul turned to witchcraft. He went to the witch of Endor in hopes of getting advice. (28:3-25)
- During another battle with the Philistines, Saul was wounded by some archers. He then killed himself by falling on his own sword. (31:1-13)

What’s God doing?

- > God gave Saul a distressing spirit, and used it to bring David on the scene (who He was preparing to make the next king).
- > God had removed His blessing from Saul and given it to David, the one who was “after his own heart” (I Sam. 13:14; 16:13).

What’s to learn?

- Jealousy produces bitterness and leads to hatred. It causes us to think and do irrational things. At times, it even ruins the best of friendships. The solution to jealousy is to show humility. We must understand that we are here on this earth for God’s glory, not our own!
- Disobedience can take a person with great potential and bring them to the darkest days of their life.
- The difference between success and failure is how obedient we are to do what God has called us to do. God is looking for people who are serious about living their lives in obedience to Him!