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 <u>David</u> 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 <u>jealous</u>. (17:1-18:9)
- Saul became afraid of David because it was clear <u>God</u> 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 <u>David</u> on the scene (who He was preparing to make the next king).
- > God had removed His <u>blessing</u> 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 <u>bitterness</u> and leads to <u>hatred</u>. 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 <u>humility</u>. 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 <u>success</u> and <u>failure</u> is how <u>obedient</u> 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!

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