

SERMON SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS, 02/09/14

1 Samuel 18–19:5 — “A House Divided,” Ryan Kelly

In a sentence: Saul unravels in his attempts on David's life, showing us the insanity of sin.

SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

Three Reactions to David's:

1. Jonathan Loves David (18:1-4)
2. All Israel Celebrates David (18:5-7)
3. Saul Grows Jealous of David (18:8-9)

Five Wicked Plots for David's Demise:

1. With a Spear (18:10-11)
2. With more War (18:12-15)
3. With a Marriage to Merab (18:17-19)
4. With a Marriage to Michal (18:20-30)
5. With a Public Death Warrant (19:1-5)

Two Observations:

1. Saul Helps us to See Sin's Vortex
2. David Points Us to The Anointed, Jesus

HELP FOR UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

1. The story begins with several reactions to David's success. What were they? In light of Jonathan's role as Saul's son, what is the significance of Jonathan's love for David? Israel's celebration of David wasn't in contrast to Saul, but why did Saul take it the way he did? When in your life have you been paranoid about people's opinion of you? When have you “pounced” on someone who posed a threat to you?
2. We may not know what the “harmful spirit” was, but we do know its origin, reason, and result. What were they?
3. Saul plotted five different attempts on David's life. What were these? Is there a progression, and what is it? How did Saul's plans either fail or actually backfire on him? According to the text what did David's continued success make clear concerning his relationship with the Lord?
4. Saul's sin is somewhat extreme, and yet it's only an expression of our sin farther down the road. What does Saul's jealousy, anger, and fears teach you about yours? Which of Saul's sins is your worst? Where are you in its vortex?
5. How does this conflict between Saul and David set us up to understand the life and death of Jesus?

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

- **Ryan on Our Saul-like sin:** “Painful as it is, we should hold up Saul like a mirror. Saul shows us the ugliness of jealousy, anger, bitterness, fear, and self-consumption. Those sins are rarely ugly to me when there in me and done by me. My jealousy isn't jealousy; it's disappointment about an injustice or inequity. My anger isn't sinfully ugly to me, it is the only possible response to your sin against me. My fears are so understandable because of all the things that could go wrong or be taken from me. I'm understanding with my own sin, but I can see it clearly in others and we can see it in Saul. Of course, it's in us too.”
- **John Owen on Sin's Destructive Intent:** “Sin aims always at the utmost; every time it rises up to tempt or entice, might it have its own course, it would go out to the utmost sin in that kind. Every unclean thought or glance would be adultery if it could; every covetous desire would be oppression, every thought of unbelief would be atheism, might it grow to its head. Every sin, might it have its course, would come to the height of villainy: it is never satisfied.”
- **New Testament References:** 1 Corinthians 10:6-13, John 11:53; Matthew 12:14; Acts 4:25-28, Matthew 10:34-39