

Theme: When Saul was rejected as king because of his sin, rather than repenting and finding his identity in God, he let his jealousy drive him to fear and despise others.

I. Game of Thrones - The Toy Story Edition!

- A. Toy Story has some things in common with the GOT!
- B. Woody was the king - Andy's favorite toy
- C. Nice - until Buzz Lightyear threatened his position
- D. Woody was jealous of Buzz - and became nasty (also Snow White, Cinderella - key theme!)
- E. How will Saul react after his rejection?

II. The Rejected King

- A. Saul's kingship had been rejected
 - 1. The dynasty of Saul had been rejected by Yahweh "You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; **if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.** ¹⁴ **But now your kingdom will not endure**; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command." 1 Samuel 13:13–14
 - 2. Saul's own kingship had been rejected by Yahweh But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. ²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. **Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.**" 1 Samuel 15:22–23

- 3. Saul knows God has sought out another to be king Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors — to one better than you. 1 Samuel 15:28
- 4. Saul knows God will not change His mind on this "He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind." 1 Samuel 15:29

- B. The anointing of kingship is removed from Saul Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. 1 Samuel 16:14
 - 1. The Spirit has departed from Saul - his anointing as king is removed
 - 2. An "evil spirit" is now upon Saul
 - a. This does not necessarily mean a demonic spirit
 - b. It can refer to the spirit or its effect upon Saul
 - c. The word can mean injurious, harmful or even sad In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been **sad** in his presence before; ² so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so **sad** when you are not ill? This can be nothing but **sadness** of heart." I was very much afraid, Nehemiah 2:1–2
 - d. The word can refer to the opposite of peace & prosperity (shalom) I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷ I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create **disaster**; I, the Lord, do all these things. Isaiah 45:6–7

- e. Instead of peace, prosperity, power, boldness, Saul is now anointed with sadness, fear and calamity
- 3. This does not mean Saul is rejected as a person - only as king
- 4. The same phrase of spirit departing is used of Samson - and he is in Hebrews 11!
- 5. Saul should repent, seek Yahweh and give up kingship
- 6. What will be done? Where will Saul turn?

III. The Rise of David

A. David is brought to the court of Saul to help

- 1. The plan - someone play music to help
Saul's attendants said to him, "See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. ¹⁶ Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes upon you, and you will feel better." ¹⁷ So Saul said to his attendants, "Find someone who plays well and bring him to me." 1 Samuel 16:15-17
- 2. The solution - David the son of Jesse
One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him." ¹⁹ Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." 1 Samuel 16:18-19
- 3. The result - relief for Saul through Jesse

Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. 1 Samuel 16:23

- 4. This is the hand of Yahweh!
 - a. David - the newly anointed king - is now next to Saul
 - b. Saul likes David very much [v21]
 - c. Yahweh is with David to bless and give peace
 - d. David is the one who can bring relief to Saul
 - e. This should point to David as the real king

B. David rises to prominence in all Israel

- 1. David is the one who kills Goliath (chapter 17)
 - a. Saul is quaking with fear, army is paralyzed
 - b. But David is full of the Spirit and delivers!
- 2. David is successful at every task given him
Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well...In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him. 1 Samuel 18:5,14
- 3. David is the one who should lead Israel
 - a. God is clearly with David and anoints him to lead
 - b. It would be better for Israel if David were to lead
 - c. It would be better for Saul if David were to lead
- 4. Will Saul step aside - or play the Game of Thrones?

IV. The Jealousy of Saul

A. Saul becomes jealous of David

When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. ⁷ As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

⁸ Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" ⁹ And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David. 1 Samuel 18:6-9

1. The people rejoice at victories over Philistines
2. They sing a refrain - that irritates Saul
3. Saul keeps a jealous (not in Hebrew) eye on David
4. In spite of all David has done - when Saul could not!
5. Instead of finding his identity and call in Yahweh, Saul is jealous of David
6. Jealousy is taking root - trouble is on the way!
7. There can be no rivals in the Game of Thrones!!!

B. Saul tries to kill David

The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand ¹¹ and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. 1 Samuel 18:10-11

1. Seeing the success of David causes Saul to brood
2. While prophesying Saul tries to kill David - twice!

3. Saul would kill the one anointed by God to deliver
4. Saul tries to kill the one blessing him and all Israel
5. This is what jealousy does - seeks to destroy others and what they have built

C. Saul is afraid of David

Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had left Saul. 1 Samuel 18:12

1. Saul knows he is no longer anointed but David is
2. Saul is afraid of David - he might become king
3. Rather than finding his peace in Yahweh, Saul is afraid of David

D. Saul hopes the enemies of God will kill David

Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the Lord." For Saul said to himself, "I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!" 1 Samuel 18:17

1. Same plan later with other daughter Michal [18:25]
2. Prefers the Philistines over David!!!!
3. This is what jealousy and blind ambition will do!

V. Applying the Word

A. Where do I struggle with jealousy?

1. Jealousy/envy are among the 7 deadly sins
2. Jealousy completely corroded Saul's character
3. Is there someone I am jealous of? Why?

4. Do I desire their position, wealth, fame?
 5. Am I content with God's call for me?
- B. Do I find my identity in Christ - or something else?
1. Saul's identity became wrapped up in being king
 2. He was not this way originally - but became consumed by the kingship
 3. Culture says to find our identity in all kinds of things
 4. My race, class, sexual desires, success
 5. But our identity is found in Christ alone!
 6. What if I lost my place - would I find my identity in Christ?
 7. If I find my identity elsewhere, it opens the door to jealousy
 8. Nothing can be on the throne other than Jesus - or we become like Saul, and our story a tragedy

A Jealous King

1 Samuel 16-28 (1 Samuel 16:14-23; 18:5-17)

October 26, 2014

Prayer

Genesis 12:2-3

Teaching keywords: Biblical characters, jealousy, fear, calling, leadership

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:2-3

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¹⁶ Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes upon you, and you will feel better."

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¹⁸ One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him." ¹⁹ Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." ²⁰ So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

²¹ David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers. ²² Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

²³ Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. 1 Samuel 16:14–23

Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well.

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¹² Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had left Saul. ¹³ So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. ¹⁴ In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him. ¹⁵ When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

¹⁷ Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the Lord." For Saul said to himself, "I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!" 1 Samuel 18:5–17