

Theme: Over time, Saul's sin grew from a lack of personal integrity to consulting witches - with devastating effects for himself and those under his leadership.

I. Denethor & Aragorn - Saul and David

- A. Denethor - steward of Gondor until king comes
- B. He had chased the real king (Aragorn) away
- C. Denethor had many strengths - but was consumed by his own desires and ultimately commits suicide
- D. Final words - "I refuse to be the dotard chamberlain of an upstart"
- E. Amazingly similar to the story of Saul and David
- F. How does Saul end up going to a witch?
- G. What can we learn from this?

II. A Downward Spiral of Sin

- A. We have seen Saul's downward pattern
 - 1. He did not wait for Samuel - and lost the dynasty
 - 2. He rebelled against God's Word - and was rejected as king
 - 3. He refused to give up the kingship but was consumed with jealousy
 - 4. Sin always grows in a downward spiral
- B. Saul's downward spiral of sin
 - 1. Saul begins with internal lack of integrity
Now Saul's daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased.

²¹"I will give her to him," he thought, "so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." So Saul said to David, "Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law." ²² Then Saul ordered his attendants: "Speak to David privately and say, 'Look, the king is pleased with you, and his attendants all like you; now become his son-in-law.'" 1 Samuel 18:20–22

- a. Saul acts like he loves David - but he hates him
- b. He uses his daughter to plot against David
- c. He wants the enemy to get Israel's best leader!
- d. This is all in his own internal thoughts at this point
- e. Sin begins in the heart - inward desires are different than outward actions
- f. This lack of integrity will grow as Saul keeps making and breaking vows to not try to kill David

2. Saul tries to involve others in his sin

Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David ²and warned him. 1 Samuel 19:1–2

- a. Saul then tries to get others to join him in his sin
- b. Sin is now becoming open and external
- c. Sin always wants others to join in
- d. We want others to excuse our sin and join us

3. Saul begins to attack those who will not go along

Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the

mother who bore you? ³¹ As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send and bring him to me, for he must die!" 1 Samuel 20:30–31

- a. Jonathan helping David to hide - and Saul knows it
- b. More literally bastard child or SOB - rough language

³² "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" Jonathan asked his father. ³³ But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David. ³⁴ Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the month he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father's shameful treatment of David. 1 Samuel 20:32-34

- a. He even tries to kill the heir - for not wanting to keep the throne!
- b. The sin is now open and spiraling out of control
- c. But Jonathan is still walking righteously - at great peril to himself

4. Saul kills innocent priests (1 Samuel 22)

- a. Ahimelech had helped David - not knowing of any trouble
- b. Saul falsely accuses Ahimelech of conspiracy
- c. Saul orders others to kill all of the priests - but they balk
- d. An Edomite foreigner kills all of the priests and their families - only Abiathar survives and goes to David
- e. Saul's sin has made him utterly irrational and consumed by evil

5. Saul thinks God is helping him to do evil

Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah, and he said, "God has handed him over to me, for David has imprisoned himself by entering a town with gates and bars." 1 Samuel 23:7

- a. Saul is so deceived he think God is helping him
- b. Ultimate rationalizing of sin - God actually approves this!
- c. Today - God made me this way
- d. Reinterpret Scripture to make what is clearly condemned to be approved and righteous

6. Saul consults a witch when Yahweh will not answer

Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land. ⁴ The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all the Israelites and set up camp at Gilboa. ⁵ When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. ⁶ He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. ⁷ Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her." "There is one in Endor," they said. 1 Samuel 28:3–7

- a. Saul had rightly banned mediums from Israel
- b. But now he wants to hear from Yahweh and can't
- c. So he actually goes to a witch - to get a message from God through Samuel!
- d. His deception is complete - sin has finished its work
- e. The more sin comes, the more confused we become
- f. Eventually we lose all ability to tell good from evil

III. The Effect of Saul's Sin

- A. Saul's sin increasingly hardens and deceives him
 - 1. He hides it at first, but becomes increasingly open
 - 2. He tries to bring others in to his sin
 - 3. He brings to attack those who do not go along
 - 4. He turns on innocent bystanders
 - 5. He loses all ability to tell good from evil
 - 6. He even think God approves of evil as being good
 - 7. This is what sin does - it hardens and deceives!
But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:13
- B. Saul's sin begins to affect others
 - 1. Some give in and go along with his sin - Doeg, leaders
 - 2. Some refuse to - and suffer the consequences - Jonathan
 - 3. Eventually even innocent priests and their families are murdered
 - 4. God's anointed is chased from the land - David
 - 5. While he chases David, the Philistines raid
 - 6. Wicked leadership harms the people - be careful who you allow to shepherd your soul!
 - 7. And as we will see next week - it ultimately kills Saul

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see how sin can not be contained?
 - 1. We always think sin can be contained
 - 2. This is why we want sin management programs rather than atonement!
 - 3. But do not be deceived - sin is never contained
 - 4. If left unchecked it corrupts my whole character
 - 5. There is no such thing a personal, victimless sin
 - 6. When character becomes corrupt, it spreads to others
 - 7. Am I playing with sin - thinking it can be contained?
 - 8. Do I recognize Saul's progression in any area of my life?
 - 9. If so - repent!
- B. Do I see the Christ has come to destroy sin - the work of the Devil?

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3:8

 - 1. Jesus did not come to contain sin - He came to destroy it!
 - 2. There can be no peace with sin - it is out to destroy everything
 - 3. Do not buy into the lie - sin will destroy everything you love

4. But Christ has overcome - for us!
5. He made atonement so we might be justified - forgiven!
6. He made atonement so we might be sanctified - increasingly freed from sins power
7. But this life will always be a struggle against sin
8. But one day - glorified - no more struggle with sin!
9. In the mean time, receive His power at His Table today

C. The Table of Confession and Power

A Wicked King

1 Samuel 18-28 (1 Samuel 18:20-22; 28:3-7)

November 2, 2014

Communion

Psalm 79:9

Teaching keywords: Biblical characters, sin, fear, character, leadership, honesty and integrity

May God our Savior help you, for the glory of His Name; may he deliver you and forgive your sins for His names sake. Psalm 79:9

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