



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 10

Lesson Title: Saul Is Destroyed by Jealousy

Take Home Point: Jealousy can poison our hearts.

Warm-Up:

Jealousy comes in many flavors. It is not limited to physical things I can acquire; in fact, it often is not. I can be jealous of another person's "good looks," personality traits, reputation, love, opportunities, intellect, relationships, or even the amount of time someone appears to have. It may be directed toward family, friends, co-workers, and even someone I do not know. It is universal from the richest to the poorest; it shows up frequently in the interactions between nations. Jealousy can be displayed in acts of hatred, false friendliness, coldness, nastiness, or just a gleeful attitude when someone we're jealous of is hurt.

Read: 1 Samuel 18-26

Observation (What happened?):

How many times is it recorded in 1 Samuel 18–26 that Saul tried to kill David?

Who besides David suffered as a result of Saul's jealousy?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Since he was already king, the most powerful person in Israel, what do you think was the real reason Saul was so jealous of David?

How did David demonstrate his trust in God?

Insight:

What is the root of jealousy? It is a consuming look at self. James 4:1-2 (NIV) "*What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it.*" Jealousy comes from selfish desire, putting personal gratification ahead of submitting to God's desires. It is a matter of the heart, and, if it is allowed to remain, it can destroy a heart and mind. It is a poison—slowly eating away at love, joy, peace, and replacing them with malice, bitterness, and anger. When those are left unchecked, they will come out in harmful ways, although perhaps not directly at the object of the jealousy. How many people suffered because of Saul's jealousy of David? Many more than just David alone. But the one hurt most is self. A jealous life is cold and harsh, unable to enjoy the life God gives for his purpose.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What does someone else have or do that makes you jealous? What do you do to overcome the temptation of jealousy?

What attitudes can you practice to discourage or prevent jealousy from poisoning your heart?