**August 15, 2021 1 Samuel 18:1-11**

***The Roadblock of Jealousy***

**Scripture: *1 Samuel 18:1-11 NRSV***

*(1)When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. (2)Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. (3)Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. (4)Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. (5)David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him; as a result, Saul set him over the army. And all the people, even the servants of Saul, approved. (6)As they were coming home, when David returned from killing the Philistine, the women came out of all the towns of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. (7)And the women sang to one another as they made merry, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands." (8)Saul was very angry, for this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands; what more can he have but the kingdom?" (9)So Saul eyed David from that day on. (10)The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand; (11)and Saul threw the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.*

**Notes:**

1. David and Jonathan, become closest of friends immediately.
   1. They based their friendship on ***commitment*** to God.
   2. They let ***nothing*** come between them;
   3. They were ***loyal*** to their commitments.
2. Saul soon turned to ***jealousy***.
   1. Saul ***feared*** that the throne was going to be taken away,
   2. Saul is too busy keeping ***score***.
   3. ***Jealousy*** created a ***roadblock*** to Saul’s relationship with Yahweh.
3. Jealousy creates ***blindness***.
   1. if you worry about getting credit you will watch others with a ***jealous*** eye.
   2. Every ***victory*** of the Lord’s is ours to enjoy.
4. Jealousy creates ***hate***.
   1. Jealousy ***invites*** the enemy to destroy us.
   2. ***Love*** and ***hate*** don’t mix.
5. Jealousy creates ***fear***.
   1. Saul knew David had God’s ***blessing***.
      1. *“(12)Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul.”*
   2. If the Lord is working in you, you won’t be ***jealous*** or ***fearful*** of others.
      1. *“(15)When Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in awe of him.”*
   3. When we walk in the ways of the Lord, we ***hope*** all God’s people are ***successful***.
      1. *“(28)But when Saul realized that the LORD was with David, and that Saul's daughter Michal loved him, (29)Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy from that time forward.”*
   4. When we are walking with the Lord, we are more ***secure***.
6. Jealousy creates ***enemies***.
   1. Saul’s jealously turned his ***children’s*** love away.
   2. Saul’s jealously pushed his ***followers*** away.
7. Are you in the ***battle*** today?
   1. What are you ***fighting*** for?
   2. Who are you ***fighting*** for?
   3. The ***battle*** belongs to the Lord, we are mere ***tools*** used to achieve his desires.

**Script:**

I spent three days traveling to Richland for different appointments the other week. Each time I traveled over I encountered roadblocks and obstacles in my way. Traffic patterns changing from one day to the next. In some instances, traffic came to a halt, and then I noticed vehicles driving past me and taking a different road. That is when I realized that they were bypassing the construction and avoiding the roadblock. In my heart I thought if I had only thought ahead and taken the turnoff as well, but from where I was stopped, it was too late to make that maneuver. IN some ways I was agitated that I was stuck in traffic, I also was thinking is there another way to get to that side road, but then traffic started moving and my worries were ended.

This is one of my greatest agitations when traveling, even on short trips; encountering roadblocks, slow traffic, and road construction. I classify all of these situations as one because they all deal with interruptions in your travel plans. What do you do when you encounter these situations? You either wait in traffic waiting for your turn to get moving, or if you are aware and knowledgeable, you take a detour. Either way, it is an agitation and delays you from reaching your destination at the estimated time. But then again, there are times when we need to appreciate the detours and roadblocks. Times when we are forced to make adjustments and changes to our plans. Life is the same way; you will hit a roadblock and things will change, some out of necessity and other times out of convenience.

Well today we are going to look at a very common roadblock we all encounter, a roadblock that is able to give us deep frustration and may drive us over the edge of thoughtful reason from time to time. I am talking about jealousy, envy, resentment, greed; and the anger and mean-spirited actions that result from it. Turn with me in your Bibles to 1 Samuel 18:1-11 and Join me in the reading of our passage for today.

*(1)When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. (2)Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. (3)Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. (4)Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. (5)David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him; as a result, Saul set him over the army. And all the people, even the servants of Saul, approved. (6)As they were coming home, when David returned from killing the Philistine, the women came out of all the towns of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. (7)And the women sang to one another as they made merry, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands." (8)Saul was very angry, for this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands; what more can he have but the kingdom?" (9)So Saul eyed David from that day on. (10)The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand; (11)and Saul threw the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. 1 Samuel 18:1-11 NRSV*

Goliath is dead. David has taken Goliath’s armor into his possession; he has taken the giant’s severed head to Jerusalem; and he has shared with Saul the accounts of this victory. The Israelites have enjoyed a great triumph, through the courage and obedience of David, who had trusted in the Lord for his victory. One would think that everybody would be happy with where they are in the world and life. But we must also remember that even though we may have won the battle there may still be a need to continue the fight. There will always be situations that come to deal with; you may find yourself facing opponents from unlikely places.

David and Jonathan, Saul’s son, meet and are instantly drawn to each other. They become the closest of friends immediately. In fact, throughout all of scripture you will not find a stronger friendship than theirs. One may ask, “Why is this so?” there are three reasons why this friendship could stand, even in the most difficult of times. First, they based their friendship on their mutual commitment to God first and foremost. Yes they looked out for each other and their needs; but the Lord came first in their lives. This understanding made their friendship that much stronger. Second, they let nothing come between them; not their careers or even family problems. They were loyal to their commitment to God first and their commitment to each other next. As time passed, they encountered difficult times, times where their friendship would be tested. Still, they grew closer together as friends, as their friendship was challenged. Even later in their friendship, Jonathan realizes that he will not become the next king, but that David would; but Jonathan’s love for his dear friend did not waiver; he would rather lose the throne than to lose his dear friend.

Saul on the other hand was not so taken by David. In fact, his attitude towards David soon turned to jealousy. Saul sent David into other conflicts and no matter where he went, David was successful. It got so bad that the people began to recognize David over Saul. In Verse seven as David and Saul return home from battle, the women sing a declaration of their admiration for David over Saul, “Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” Obviously this angered Saul, even though it was not David’s fault. Saul feared that the throne was going to be taken away, when in fact the Lord had never said any such thing. Saul’s jealousy was eating him up from the inside. In verse 10 we read that an evil spirit from God came upon Saul and while David was playing the soothing music that usually calmed Saul, he threw his spear at David attempting to kill him. Saul did not do this once but twice. But the Lord was with David and David was able to elude both attempts on his life.

When we find victory, we should all be rejoicing together, because every victory of the Lord’s is ours to enjoy. We should find joy and peace in every victory. Saul on the other hand, was too busy brooding over what David is receiving. Saul is too busy keeping score of what David is taking from him; including public opinion, his own son’s affections, his daughter’s love, and many other things; to realize how good he has it. Jealousy has gotten the better of Saul and created a roadblock to his reign as king, but even more a roadblock to his relationship with Yahweh.

What can we learn from Saul and his actions towards David in this passage? What can we learn about jealousy? What can we learn about our behavior? We can learn from Saul’s failures; we can learn what to look for; and we can learn how to avoid or correct these actions and attitudes.

Jealousy creates blindness. Who cares who killed the most people? Being in a battle is not a contest between teammates. Saul and David were supposed to be on the same side; the side of Israel; but because David was receiving more recognition, more credit, Saul became jealous and began to hate David. It wasn’t David’s fault. In fact, Saul should have been pleased that he had made a good decision in the position that he put David in. If Israel won, that meant that Saul won; but he didn’t get to enjoy the victories because he was too busy keeping score; Saul was too busy keeping a “jealous eye on David.” You ought to underline that statement, because if you are worried about getting the credit for something; then you will begin to watch others with a jealous eye. As I said earlier, when a victory occurs, we should all be rejoicing together. Every victory of the Lord’s is ours to enjoy. We should find joy and peace in the victory. Saul failed to realize how good he had it.

Jealousy creates hate. One moment Saul is prophesying and the next he is trying to kill David. Saul’s jealousy opened a door to be under the control of an evil spirit. Jealousy invites the enemy in enabling him to create inner turmoil that if left unchecked is able to destroy all of us. Hatred will lead to your destruction. You will never be able to move forward in the Lord’ name; you will not be able to experience the joy and peace that is yours without walking in love. Love and hate don’t mix.

Jealousy creates fear. Three times in this chapter, the text says that Saul feared David. Saul is always looking over his shoulder. How is Saul able to govern effectively if he is never focused on leading and always preoccupied by David’s accomplishments? Saul eventually realized that no matter what he did, no matter how hard he tried, God was going to protect David. This is what created the greatest fear in Saul’s life. He knew he was not able to control God, that David had God’s blessing, and that no matter what David did, he would be successful. Check out these verses:

*“(12)Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul.”* Jealousy will cause you to fear everything, especially the things of the Lord. When this happens, you have a choice- You can either come up with a plan of your own as Saul did, or you can get resist the devil and draw near to God. If the Lord is working in you, you won’t be jealous or fearful of others.

*“(15)When Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in awe of him.”* Jealousy will cause you to want others to fail. If you find yourself hoping someone falls flat on their face, then you not only are jealous of them; but in actuality you are afraid of them. When we are walking in the ways of the Lord, we hope that all God’s people are successful and that those who are not saved will be brought into the Family of God- Which would make them successful.

*“(28)But when Saul realized that the LORD was with David, and that Saul's daughter Michal loved him, (29)Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy from that time forward.”* Saul was not only jealous about David’s relationship with God, but also David’s relationship with his daughter Michal. Michal loved David. Do you know somebody that if you’re their friend, you can’t be anyone else’s friend? That person is a jealous person and they will begin to fear everyone around them. They will begin to believe that everyone is out to get them and that no one cares about them. However, when we are walking with the Lord, we are more secure in who we are and what we are doing. If need be, we are able to walk alone. In Saul’s eyes, it was only a matter of time until David would attempt to overthrow Saul as king. Yet David had no intention to do so.

Jealousy creates enemies. Sauls children loved Saul, but they also loved David. But Saul’s jealously turned his children’s love away, pushing them away. Saul’s people loved Saul, but they also loved David. Saul’s jealously pushed his followers away, causing them to turn away from their friendship and become enemies. Saul’s jealousy and hatred of David’s success caused him to make enemies of anyone that cared about David; even if it was family.

Saul allowed his jealousy to not only control his life, but also ruin his relationships with his children, his friends, and worst of all, with his Lord.

Are you in the battle today? There is a battle that wages throughout our world for the hearts and minds of all of humanity. What are you fighting for? You must be in the battle fighting to shine the light of the Lord to all of mankind. This includes but is not limited to your closest family, your children, your parents, your brothers and sisters, even your aunts, uncles, cousins. You fight that they may come to know. You face the giants of fear, hatred, the giants of jealousy, but if you serve the Lord, God of Israel, you serve the Giant slayer. Who are you fighting for? Remember that you have been given the skills and talents, all gifts from God, to be used for the glory of His kingdom, for God’s glory. You have been called, by name, to enter into the battle for lost souls. You have been called by name, to serve your Lord and Savior; to serve the King of all creation, and to serve your brothers and sisters. You fight for the Lord and all of His creation, in helping to lead others to Christ.

As we battle for the Lord, we must remember first and foremost, that it is God who should receive the credit for all things. We must not be concerned with what everybody else says; we should not be focused upon who they give credit to for the victories; and which among us is the greatest. If God uses me to touch your life, or the lives of others for His kingdom, who cares if I get the credit. That is not what we are fighting for, the battle belongs to the Lord, we are mere tools being used to achieve his desires. We are fighting for the souls of those who are lost and hurting.