

of the Spirit in his life (cf. 1 Sam. 16:13). How? He "behaved himself wisely" (vv. 5, 14, 15, 30). The verb here means to prosper. David, therefore, vindicated himself; he did not resort to rebellion or retaliation. God honoured this by making his name valued and dear (v. 30). He was loved deeply (vv. 20, 28). God presented Himself with him (vv. 12, 14, 28).

Conclusion:

It is important for us to learn that in the will of God certain untoward attitudes may be shown toward us yet God is working out His purpose and Romans 8:28 will be realized. It is great to belong to Christ! Do you?

Notes:

THE BOOK OF FIRST SAMUEL

"The Jealous Spirit"

1 Samuel 18:1-30

Introduction

1. Behaviour patterns are the concern of people everywhere. Parents are concerned about children. Teens are concerned about parents. Specialists are concerned about apparent abnormalities. The whole gamut of interpersonal relationships is pregnant with concern in today's world.

2. The Bible is the standard of the believer for faith and practice. It is well for Christians to remember that they cannot involve themselves in extra Biblical resources without coming up with serious defection from the faith! The Bible has tons to speak about behaviour and proper patterns!

3. Take the account in today's text. David is the appointed and anointed king (1 Sam. 16:13). Saul was rejected from the royal responsibilities (1 Sam. 15:26). What ensued as a result of these decisions by the Lord is the concern of this chapter. Study these three features which relate themselves to a spirit of jealousy:

1. JEALOUSY DEFINED

a. Biblically. It is exciting to read in the Bible that God is jealous. It is part of His character (Ex. 20:5; 34:14; Deut. 4:24; 5:9; 6:15). He is jealous for His Name (Ezek. 39:25), and for Jerusalem (Zech. 1:14). His people provoke Him to jealousy (Deut. 32:16, 21).

Jealousy among men is complex. For Paul it was a good thing (2 Cor. 11:2). He urged the Romans to effect it for the Jews (Rom. 11:11). Elijah was this way for God (1 Kings 4:22).

Yet, the idea may forbode evil. It can rise between husband and wife (Num. 5:14, 30). Paul denounces it as of the flesh (Gal. 5:20).

b. Semantically. Both the Hebrew and the Greek terms used in the Bible speak of the idea of zeal, ardour, anger, and indignation. The dictionary suggests the ideas of intolerant of rivalry, mistrust of another,

and exacting exclusive devotion. For God to be jealous of our love is right. For us to be jealous of others is wrong!

2. JEALOUSY DETAILED.

This chapter exudes with dramatic actions which the spirit of jealousy emits. All are of an evil sort. They rise in the heart of Saul and are directed toward David. The pattern of behaviour seen here is all too well known today. Here they are:

a. Wrath, v. 8. The verb used here means "to burn, to be inflamed, to be angry." Since this is usually seen in the eyes, an inflamed countenance is part of the expression (cf. Gen. 31:35).

b. Displeasure, v. 8. What Saul heard and saw he did not like! This made him consider the matter evil and that is the essence of the verb used here. Jealousy effects a feeling of ill for one's self and others.

c. Suspicion, v. 9. Saul pursued David with concern from that point on. He never allowed his actions to get out of his sight. The verb here is the one from which the noun "eye" comes.

d. Murder, vv. 10, 11. Violence is intended in the verb used by Saul stating he would "smite" David and this against the wall. The action shows the depth of feeling which jealousy arouses in one.

An extension of this attempt by Saul is seen in Saul's placing of David in positions of danger (vv. 17, 21, 25). It is explicitly stated that Saul hoped David would fall before the Philistines (v. 25). Besides the Philistines, Saul urges a marriage which he feels will bring David into a snare (v. 21). The whole solemn bond of marriage was to be considered as evil to accomplish the jealous ends of Saul!

e. Separation, v. 13. This is a strange action, but it points up that jealousy cannot coinhabit a geographical position. It drives a wedge between two persons which results in physical separation.

f. Fear, vv. 12, 15, 29. Three times over it is recorded that Saul lived in fear. There was no peace for him! Jealousy breeds this spirit of mistrust and tension. No relaxation in the sweet will of God for Saul!

g. Deceit, vv. 17-19. The unfaithfulness of Saul and his lying to David are accented here. He promised a marriage but failed to fulfill the promise. Jealousy can only work antagonistically toward the one upon whom this spirit is poured.

h. Antagonism, v. 29. What sad words to read in this verse. The word "enemy" is sourced in a verb meaning "to persecute or hate." "All the days" is the meaning of the word "continually." Jealousy reaps what it sows: broken relationships. How sad!

NOTE The mention of only one of these detailed excesses of jealousy is fearful enough. The combination of them is dreadful. How our hearts ought to take care lest the spirit of Saul enter our hearts and give vent to these diabolical attitudes and intentions.

3. JEALOUSY DECRIED.

Thank God there is another side in this chapter. Note it carefully:

a. By Jonathan, vv. 1-4. This dear man was just the opposite of his father. He seems always to have had a different spirit (cf. 1 Sam. 14). Whereas jealousy seeks ways and means to deprive, Jonathan gives (Just like his name: God gave). Note what Jonathan gave David: love (v. 1), a covenant (v. 3), and possessions (v. 4). Hallelujah.

b. By the people. Saul's spirit fortunately was not able to penetrate the people. They accepted David (v. 5). Even Saul's court helpers did not disdain him (v. 5). They loved David (v. 16). What a refreshing thought and how exhilarating in the face of Saul's evil spirit (v. 10).

c. By David. Here is a glorious triumph in the soul of the man so abused. He exhibited the ministry