Life Lesson #8 - Jealousy is a threat to sanity.

A study of the life of Saul must include the fact that King Saul was obsessed with David. His obsession was due in part to what Samuel had prophesied concerning the future of his family’s reign. In those days, Kings expected their families to be a dynasty. Saul knew that the Lord would not allow that to happen for his family. So, presumably, he saw David as a threat to his legacy.

Consider I Samuel 13:13-14

Although there is some evidence that Saul knew for a fact that David would be the next King, we don’t know when he realized it. But his actions suggest that he was threatened by David and had no intention of allowing him to live long enough to be king. The Scriptures lay out, in harsh detail, just how far Saul went to prevent David from reaching his divine assignment.

Life Lesson #8. Jealousy is a threat to sanity.

No one personifies the cruelness of jealousy like Saul. There are several examples of how Saul’s behavior was unbecoming of a King:

Consider – I Samuel 18:5-9, I Samuel 18:10-11, I Samuel 18:12-16, I Samuel 22:11-19, Song of Solomon 8:6

Let me repeat myself, jealousy threatens sanity. Not jealousy *over* someone but jealousy *of* someone. The jealousy between Saul and David is not relational jealousy, (i.e. a jealous spouse) but comparative jealousy. This is materialistic jealousy, which is based on what someone else has. This is an achievement jealousy, where Saul is jealous of David's successes. This is potential jealousy that sees more potential in someone else than in oneself.

Some people are competitive and have to outdo others. There is such a thing as church hate! People are jealous of hair, appearance, status, promotion, opportunities, blessings, and even miracles! Tell yourself, “Don’t hate, congratulate.” “Don’t worry, welcome.” “Don’t be nosey, be nice!” “Don’t be nasty, be wise.”

As we continue to study Saul’s life, we see that the entire nation was embroiled in this emotional conflict. Likewise, people who are driven by jealousy rarely act alone. They recruit and/or require other people to participate in their personal vendettas.

A good prayer to pray for ourselves (personally), is a prayer against jealousy and similar emotions. Jealousy can cause irrational actions. Jealousy can prevent productivity. Jealousy is insatiable. Jealousy is not a child’s emotion, it affects all ages and stages. *Pray for God to remove jealousy from our minds and hearts, and that He replace it with love, respect and genuine happiness.*

Consider Ephesians 4:26-27, Ephesians 4:31-32

We must be mindful of the slightest hint of animosity, hostility, hatred, dislike, antagonism, bad blood, no love lost, etcetera. We should replace those mindsets with thoughts of goodwill, care, compassion support, etcetera.

Consider Luke 6:27-31

The Sad Story of Saul.

Imagine how different Saul’s life would have been if he had accepted the fact that God had chosen another person. Imagine how happy David and Michal could have been. Imagine the friendship that David and Jonathon could have had.

There are times in which God chooses to bless other people, instead of us. A clear sign for concern, (or a personal red flag), is when a person is unable to truly celebrate the success of another person. Especially when the other person is blessed to accomplish a goal that was mutual.

Life Lesson #9. Whenever God chooses someone else, (other than you), support them.

We should be willing to genuinely celebrate the accomplishments of all people, especially the Saints. We should remember that the success of others does not mean God favors them over us, but that God favors them too. Our God is able to bless us and others. Even those we disagree with or may dislike.

I have heard people unfairly criticize so-called competitors who receive blessings that they wanted for themselves. Again, this kind of criticism should be seen as a red flag. We should learn to say, wisely, things like: “Good for them,” “I am happy for them,” “They deserve it,” and “They will do well.” And we should reject the influence of Satan by saying to ourselves: “God has a blessing for me,” “God has something different for me,” “That was not for me,” etcetera.

The super sad story of Saul.

The story of King Saul never improves. There were two instances in Scripture where David had a chance to take Saul’s life, but chooses not to. A careful examination of them is very revealing.

Consider I Samuel 24:1-7

Consider I Samuel 26:1-25

Life Lesson #10. Pay special attention to the words and promises spoken as a result of surreal “moments of clarity.” Those moments produce a wisdom that can be pivotal and transparent, self-preserving and beneficial.

God has a way of smacking us in the face and showing us when we are wrong. It is clear that Saul did not take Samuel’s warnings to heart. Nor did he ever repent in his heart for his transgressions.

A Summary of King Saul

Saul wasted his reign! In the end, his family and the house of David would never be able to coexist.

Life Lesson #11. The favor of God can be wasted.

There are two qualities that were absent in Saul’s life: obedience and gratitude. If Saul had his life to live over again, and he applied those two qualities, he and his family could have had the kind of future he forcefully tried to create.

If we live the rest of our lives with the Life Lessons from King Saul, we too can create a better future for ourselves and those connected to us.

Life Lesson #12. People who are focused on their divine assignments are less likely to be distracted by petty matters and pet peeves.

Pray this simple prayer: Father, help me stay focused on the purpose you have assigned to me.

Life Lesson #1: When God is our Number One Authority, keep Him as the Number One Authority. Never ask God to settle for Number Two! Let Him Lead!

Life Lesson #2: The grass is not greener on the other side

Life Lesson #3: Some folks just don’t realize how blessed they are.

Life Lesson #4. Some so-called chance encounters are God’s way of introducing us to key people that will be vital to our future. No one networks like God!

Life Lesson #5. Whenever God opens opportunity to us, we should ask Him “Why me?” The answer to that question will keep us humble and provide important guidance.

Life Lesson #6. Obedience is (still) better.

Life Lesson #7. Rebellion and stubbornness can be very costly.

Life Lesson #8 - Jealousy is a threat to sanity.

Life Lesson #9 - Whenever God chooses someone else, (other than you), support them.

Life Lesson #10 - Pay special attention to the words and promises spoken as a result of surreal “moments of clarity.” Those moments produce a wisdom that can be pivotal and transparent, self-preserving and beneficial.

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