

Archenemy Plots Murder

1Sam 19

Introduction:

1. David's victory over Goliath made him a national hero and this brought some good things and some bad things
 - a. The friendship of David and Jonathan grew stronger
 - b. David received acclaim from the people for his bravery
 1. He was promoted to a higher position by King Saul
 2. He received the praise of the singers
 - c. King Saul turned against David and tried to kill him
 1. He threw the javelin at David
 2. King Saul sent David out to battle hoping that he would be killed
2. In all of this David behaved himself well.
3. The animosity that David began to experience from Saul after the victory over Goliath was only the beginning
4. We saw in our last study that Saul "became David's enemy continually" – 18:29
5. This animosity was not just a little friction on the job or a strained relationship with a neighbor
6. Rather, Saul continually how he could murder David
7. Our study tonight is about more of King Saul's plots to kill David
8. Each of these plots failed because God had plans for David's life
 - a. Saul was fighting against God and God saw to it that each plot failed
 - b. David would someday be king of Israel and God saw to it that he survived

I. THE SUMMONS FOR MURDER – VS 1-7

- The first plot against David's life that is recorded in this chapter involved Saul's summons to have David killed

- God was not ruling in Saul's court and when God is not ruling wicked counsel takes over

A. Progression of Evil

1 And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

1. The previous attempts to kill David were more subtle
 - a) *Trying to kill David by javelin looked like the action of a mad man who was not responsible for his madness*
 - b) *Trying to kill David via the Philistines were also subtle since Saul's murderous intentions were not known*
2. But now King Saul informs his servants and his son Jonathan about his evil desires for David
3. Saul is progressing in his vileness – his evil is getting progressively worse
4. There is no shame about this evil
5. When people ceased to be ashamed of their sin, they will begin to adore their sins
6. When sin is not condemned it will eventually be commended
7. Abortion, gambling and homosexuality are not condemned anymore generally and they are commended more

B. Providence Against Evil

2 But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret *place*, and hide thyself:

1. It may look like God has lost control of the situation as powers of evil take over
2. God is still in control
3. Jonathan, David's best friend, told David about Saul's intentions to murder him
4. God's providence made sure that the evil intentions were revealed to David's best friend so that David was warned
5. It is easy for God to foil the plans of evil men

6. God made sure that Paul's nephew heard the evil plot to kill Paul in Acts 23:16

C. Pliancy Towards Evil

1. Though David was "accepted... in the sight of Saul's servants" (18:5) they did not have the convictions to stand against Saul when he gave the summons to kill David
2. These servants were more interested in positions at the court than purity in conduct
3. They would stoop to any deed if it would get them in good graces with the king
4. This kind of behavior often happens in politics today
5. They compromise in order to keep their job

D. Precaution About Evil – vs 2a

1. Danger of This Evil Summons – vs 2

2a But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore....

- a) *In plain words Jonathan told David that his father was wanting to kill him*
- b) *Jonathan did not water down this message to make it more palatable to David*
- c) *He didn't use mild terms to as to not upset David*
- d) *Many preachers refuse to preach on hell and warn sinners that they are going to hell*
- e) *Those who do preach on hell might be accused of not having love in their hearts for people*
- f) *But Jonathan's message for David was motivated by love*

2. Deliverance From This Evil Summons – vs 2b

2b ...I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

- a) *Jonathan told David of the danger that he was in but he also told*

- him how to escape this great danger*
- b) We are to not only warn people about hell but we are also to tell them how to escape*
 - c) In Christ our souls can be safely hidden from the judgment to come on sin*
 - d) If David failed to heed the instructions given to him by Jonathan he would perish*

E. Protesting Against Evil – vs 3-7

3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.

- Jonathan took a courageous stand against evil by going to his father and trying to change his mind about David
 - We not three things about this protesting of Jonathan
1. Reasoning About David – vs 4-5

4 And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good: **5** For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

- a) Jonathan protested that David was a good man*
- b) Jonathan cited David's great victory over Goliath and the resulting victory over the Philistines as the works of David*
- c) The good work of David was not just hearsay for Saul witnessed it himself – vs 5*
- d) Jonathan reminded his father that even Saul rejoiced when he heard of David's great victory*
- e) And so how unreasonable to kill David*
- f) Christ was the source of our greatest joys but mankind crucified Him and today they still don't want Him around*
- g) Jonathan's conclusion said reasoned that King Saul would sin by*

killing the innocent David without a cause

2. Repentance Towards David – vs 6

6 And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.

- a) *Saul's repentance here sounds good but it is not real*
- b) *Like the "repentance" of Judas it didn't mean much*
- c) *It is impossible to distinguish between true and false professions but time will tell*
- d) *Those who make false professions will eventually forsake Christ and turn from His Word*

Mr 4:17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

Lu 8:13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

3. Restoration of David – vs 7

7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.

- a) *Saul's outward change of attitude made it possible for Jonathan to help bring David back into Saul's court*
- b) *Jonathan could easily speak to David since David was hidden in the same field where Jonathan spoke to his father*
- c) *Jonathan had promised David that what he saw he would report that to David – vs 3 – and after the conversation with Saul Jonathan reported*

II. THE SPEARING TO MURDER – VS 9-10

- Saul's repentance and David's restoration only stopped Saul's animosity towards David for only a short period of time

- Soon King Saul was trying to kill David again

A. Madness of Saul – vs 9

9 And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with *his* hand.

1. Saul had another attack of the evil spirit come upon him
2. These attacks made King Saul a madman
3. It is pretty easy to see what triggered this fit of madness when we look at what happened in vs 8

8 And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

4. King Saul was so filled with envy that he had much trouble with this victory of David
5. Envy simply can't stand to see the one envied succeed

B. Music for Saul – “David played with his hand” – vs 9

1. As before, David was called on to play his harp for Saul
2. It took much humility to come from the battlefield in order to play the harp for the king
3. We will lose many opportunities for service if pride comes into our hearts
4. Stay humble and you will not lack for opportunities to serve
5. It took courage for David to play for Saul since the last time he played Saul threw the spear at him

C. Malice for Saul

1. Earnestness of the Malice

10 And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

- a) *Saul threw the spear with a great deal of force since it stuck in the wall near David playing the harp*
- b) *Usually we underestimate the earnestness of evil*
- c) *Society needs to heed the message here*

- d) *Parents need to heed the message here*
 - e) *Schools need to heed this message*
 - f) *Evil is not as harmless as it may appear*
2. Opportunity for the Malice

9 And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with *his* hand.

- a) *It shouldn't have surprised David that Saul threw the spear since he was sitting there with a spear in his hand*
- b) *He had opportunity near at hand so he threw the spear*
- c) *If we have opportunity to sin near at hand you will likely sin*
- d) *Keep beer in the fridge and you will not do well in your effort to stop drinking*
- e) *Keep a pack of cigarettes in your pocket and you will not do well at quitting*

D. Moving from Saul – vs 10b

10b ... and David fled, and escaped that night.

- 1. David escaped this attack by separating himself from Saul
- 2. This is a good illustration of separation and how it helps one escape from evil
- 3. We need to stay alert to evil if we want to separate from sin
 - a) *Though Saul appeared to repent and change his mind, David was still on guard and kept his eyes open for danger*
 - b) *Because he was alert David could take the appropriate action to save himself*
 - c) *We must never let our guard down against evil*
 - d) *Satan loves to lull us into complacency about evil to get us to let down our guard*
- 4. David fled from the evil
 - a) *This is a strong reaction but it is a needed reaction if one is to be successful in defeating evil*
 - b) *The Bible instructs us to flee from evil*
 - (1) 1Cor 6:18 – “flee fornication”
 - (2) 1Cor 10:14 – “flee from idolatry”

- (3) 1Tim 6:11 – “flee these things (materialism)
 - (4) 2Tim 2:22 – “flee youthful lusts”
- c) *We will not escape unless we do it speedily*

III. THE SNARE FOR MURDER – VS 11-17

- The enemy does not give up easily so failing to spear David only caused him to try another means to murder him
- This time David’s archenemy set a snare for David

A. **Watching of David – vs 11a**

11 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning...

1. When David went back home, Saul’s men would kill him
2. The trap was set

B. **Warning of David – vs 11b**

11b ... and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.

- David’s rescue from this attempt on his life came from his wife Michal
 - She faithfully and courageously supported David in this great peril
 - Note three lessons from this account
1. Repelling of Sin
 - a) *David once again received help from someone of Saul’s family*
 - b) *Earlier it was Saul’s son Jonathan and here it is his daughter and David’s wife Michal*
 - c) *David receiving help from Saul’s family reminds us that God can raise up friends for His people in strange places*
 2. Revealing of Sin
 - a) *Scripture does not reveal how Michal found out about the scheme*
 - b) *God has different ways to expose evil*
 - c) *Scripture tell us “Be sure your sin will find you out.”*
 3. Reaping of Sin
 - a) *Saul had intended Michal to be a snare to David when he gave her*

- to David*
- b) But Saul's plans worked against him*
 - c) What Saul planned for evil for David had turned out for good for David*

C. Wiles of Michal

- Saul was a clever man but he met his match in his own daughter

1. Window

12 So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.

- a) The watchers focused primarily on the door of the house expecting David to come out in the morning*
- b) Michal outwitted them by helping David escape through a window*
- c) Rahab let the spies escape through a window and over the wall of Jericho*
- d) The apostle Paul escaped from Damascus through a window*
- e) It is not very impressive but it is adequate*

2. Wood

13 And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth.

- a) Michal had a life-sized idol which she put in David's bed*
- b) She made it look like David was in bed sick*
- c) The watchmen would eventually discover her trick but it would stall them some*
- d) Using the image to save David does not justify her having the image*
- e) She and David were not compatible spiritually*

3. Words

14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick.

- a) David did not come out of the house as the watchmen expected so they finally checked on him*
- b) Michal's lying here is not justified though it helped David escape*

D. Wickedness of Saul

15 And Saul sent the messengers *again* to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.

1. Saul would even take a sick man from his house to murder him.
2. See that Saul's sin was progressing
3. When we don't repent of sin it can grow rapidly in our lives

E. Whining of Saul

16 And when the messengers were come in, behold, *there was* an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster. **17** And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

- When Michal's trick was discovered King Saul whined to Michal about her actions
1. The Rebuke in It – “Why hast thou deceived me so?”
 - a) *This was a hypocritical rebuke for King Saul had been practicing deceit for some time - But when his daughter practices deceit then Saul gets upset*
 - b) *This was a harvesting rebuke for Saul was reaping what he had sown – he had deceived David and intended that the daughters would be a snare for David*
 2. The Rationale in It – “Why has thou...”
 - a) *Saul put no value on the marriage relationship*
 - b) *He thought that Michal should betray her husband David so that Saul could kill him*
 - c) *People like this would scorn you if you live morally but praise you if you are immoral*
 3. The Response to It – “Michal answered Saul...”
 - a) *Her response to King Saul was to lie even more*
 - b) *Like father like daughter*
 - c) *Her lie to her father was a slander of David who did not really threaten her life*

IV. THE SEARCHING TO MURDER – VS 18-24

- David's escape from his house resulted in Saul plotting another way to catch and kill David
- King Saul sent out a search party to Ramah to find David

A. *Sagacity of David*

18 So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth.

1. See the wisdom of David fleeing to Samuel
2. He represented the Word of God and the people of God and David could obtain wise counsel from him
3. When trouble comes many stop reading their Bibles and skip out on church – the very places they can find counsel

B. *Safety of David*

19 And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David *is* at Naioth in Ramah. **20** And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing *as* appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. **21** And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. **22** Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that *is* in Sechu: and he asked and said, Where *are* Samuel and David? And *one* said, Behold, *they be* at Naioth in Ramah. **23** And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. **24** And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, *Is* Saul also among the prophets?

- God has used Jonathan and Michal to protect David and here he protects David through the spell of prophecy
1. Manner of the Spell

- a) *As we noticed earlier when discussing the spell of prophesying it was not the message but the manner of behavior*
- b) *The word “prophesying” here comes from the Hebrew word “to cause to bubble up” – Gensenius*
- c) *This is describing the emotional and animated actions that characterized some of the prophets at that time*
- d) *The spell that came over Saul and his messengers caused them to enter into the enthusiastic singing, chanting, or reciting*

2. Might of the Spell

- a) *When the spell came on the messengers of Saul and on Saul himself it overpowered them*
- b) *It rendered them incapable of capturing David*
- c) *Saul was overcome more than the others for he stripped off his clothes (outer garment) and prophesied*

3. Malice in Spite of the Spell

- a) *When Saul found what happened to his first group of messengers he sent others – vs 21 – who also were disabled by the spell*
- b) *Saul should have realized that this was God protecting David but in stubbornness Saul continued to try to capture David to kill him*

4. Moment of the Spell

- a) *This was a real test of David’s faith for God waited till the men were near David before He stepped in to save David*
- b) *Sometimes God waits till trouble is right at the door before He steps in to help*

5. Meaning of the Spell

24 *And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?*

- a) *Just because Saul and his soldiers came under the spell of prophecy by the Spirit of God does not mean that they were*

converted and became new men and that they were now true prophets of God

- b) This was an outward effect on the men not an inward thing.*
- c) They didn't leave with changed hearts and new behavior*