

Sunday Night Message

October 13, 2019

The Insanity of Saul

Topics – Saul; David; Jonathan; Jonathan and David

Series – *1 Samuel*

Text – 1 Samuel 19

Introduction

This chapter reveals the utter insanity of Saul. He hates David, and then He loves David, and then He hates Him again. I know people who are like this. They can't make up their minds. They are up and down.

It seems that Saul's entire reign revolves around David. Saul is far more concerned with David than he is with running his kingdom and fighting Israel's enemies. Our focus must be on the Lord and His will for our lives. If we become distracted as Saul was, it will eventually lead us to a place where God cannot use us, and, thus, will have to remove us.

I Saul Determines to Kill David (vs. 1 – 5)

Verse 1 - Wanted – Dead or Alive. Saul puts out a contract on David's life, and authorizes any of his servants to kill David.

Note – This is the danger of having too much power. When a man is elevated to a position of dictatorship, he thinks he can do whatever he wants. He doesn't have anyone to answer to. He feels he doesn't even have to answer to God. God certainly would not have authorized Saul to kill David, but Saul doesn't care about what God wants. He is doing his own will. He is operating outside of the will of God.

Illustrate – Pastor of large church who thought he could do whatever he wanted and was immoral with a sixteen year old girl. He became completely insane. The devil had him convinced that he could do whatever he wanted.

Beware that the devil does not convince you that you can do whatever you want. We all should have human accountability, as well as spiritual accountability.

Verses 2 – 3 – Jonathan warns David about Saul and assures David that he will talk to Saul and see if he could talk some sense into him, and if he could not deter Saul, he would tell David. Notice that Jonathan's loyalty is not to David, but it is to what is right. His loyalty is to God. I am sure that Jonathan loved his father, but Jonathan also knew that his father was doing wrong.

Jesus demands that same kind of loyalty from believers today.

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and

followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." (Matthew 10:34-39)

Notice also that Jonathan arranges that this entire meeting would take place in a place where David could secretly watch what transpires. Perhaps he did this to assure David that what he would tell him was the truth.

Verses 4 – 5 – Jonathan reasons with his dad, and convinces him that David is not a threat; that he is actually a great ally to Saul.

II Saul is Temporarily Deterred from His Plan (vs. 6 – 8)

Saul listens to reason, at least temporarily. David is allowed back into the good graces of Saul, and he again is sent out to fight with the army of Israel against the Philistines where he is again very successful.

David's great military success will once again be his downfall, because it provokes Saul's jealousy.

Note – David reminded Saul of what he should have been doing himself. David was out with the army fighting against Israel's enemies. There is no record of Saul being out there. Saul was the commander-in-chief of Israel, and it was expected that kings should lead their army into battle.

Practical Point – When you are not doing what you are supposed to be doing, you will become very critical of people who are.

III Michal Deceives Saul and David Escapes (vs. 9 – 17)

Verse 9 – 10 - Saul snaps again. Saul's jealousy and lack of submission to God open the door for an evil spirit to come in and oppress Saul.

Note – Demonic spirits cannot just arbitrarily come in and possess lost people (or oppress saved people). That is what is meant by the phrase, "from the Lord." The Lord has to allow these devils to do what they want to do. Saul was out of the will of God. He was operating independently of God. He allowed his irrational and illogical human emotions to control him, and as a result, the door was open for evil to enter into his life. He invited it in.

The same is true today. Devils are not permitted to just enter into to a person's life. They have to be invited in. Teenagers who are messing with alcohol and drugs, running with wrong crowd, listening to bad music, and rebelling against what they know is right are inviting trouble to come in.

Practical Point – alcohol does this to a person as well. You become a different person when you are under the influence of alcohol.

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;" (Ephesians 5:18)

Why do you think they call alcohol, "spirits?"

Isn't it amazing that the big fight today in our fundamental churches is whether or not it is OK to drink alcohol. They are not debating over doctrine, or over the best methods to reach people. They are fighting over whether or not they can satisfy their flesh with wine.

David was playing his harp, innocently doing what he was supposed to be doing, and Saul snaps, and tries to kill him with the javelin.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8)

Verses 11 – 17 – Saul sends some people to go to David's house to take him and kill him.

Practical Point – Notice that Saul is always sending someone to do his work for him. A leader may have to delegate some things, but only because he is already busy doing other things, which only he can do. Saul is always sending others to do his work for him.

Michal warns David and lowers him out of window so that he could escape. She then takes an "image" (תְּרַפִּימַת – *těraphiym*) and places it in the bed so that when the messengers come they will think he is sick in bed.

Note – this is the second time we see the wife of a prominent Bible character who has images. Remember Jacob's wife, Rachel, had stolen the images of her father Laban, and hid them with her stuff. (See Genesis 31).

Why would David allow his wife to have "images" in their home?

The messengers return to Saul and Saul sends them back to get him anyway. They discover the deception and when Saul asks Michal about it, she lies and tells him that David threatened to kill her.

IV David Disappears to Samuel in Ramah (vs. 18 – 24)

Verse 18 - David flees to Ramah, apparently seeking the protection of the man of God. Naioth is perhaps a geographical area within the village of Ramah. It was where Samuel was born, and was where his headquarters was throughout his ministry. There also was "school of the prophets" here. (See Maps – Note "David's Flights from Saul" map shows all of David's movements while on the run from Saul, which will be seen in subsequent chapters.)

Verses 19 – 21 – Saul finds out where David goes, and again sends messengers (3 times) to take David. The messengers all end up prophesying with the prophets.

Verses 22 – 24 – Saul eventually goes down to Naioth himself, and he also begins to prophesy.

This is crazy – Remember at the beginning of Saul's reign, he was prophesying (See 1 Samuel 10:10 – 13). Then we read three times about an evil spirit oppressing him. (1 Samuel 16:14 – 16; 23; 18:10; 19:9). Now we see the Spirit of God upon Him again. What does all this mean?

Was Saul saved in the first place? Did he lose his salvation? And then get it back again?

I think the confusion can be cleared up when we consider the words, "upon," and "in." In every case involving Saul, either the Spirit of God, or the evil spirit was "upon" Saul and not "in" Saul. Typically, with a few exceptions, this was the case in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the Holy Ghost is within you and seals you until the day of redemption:

*"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, **and shall be in you.**" (John 14:17)*

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," (Ephesians 1:12-13)

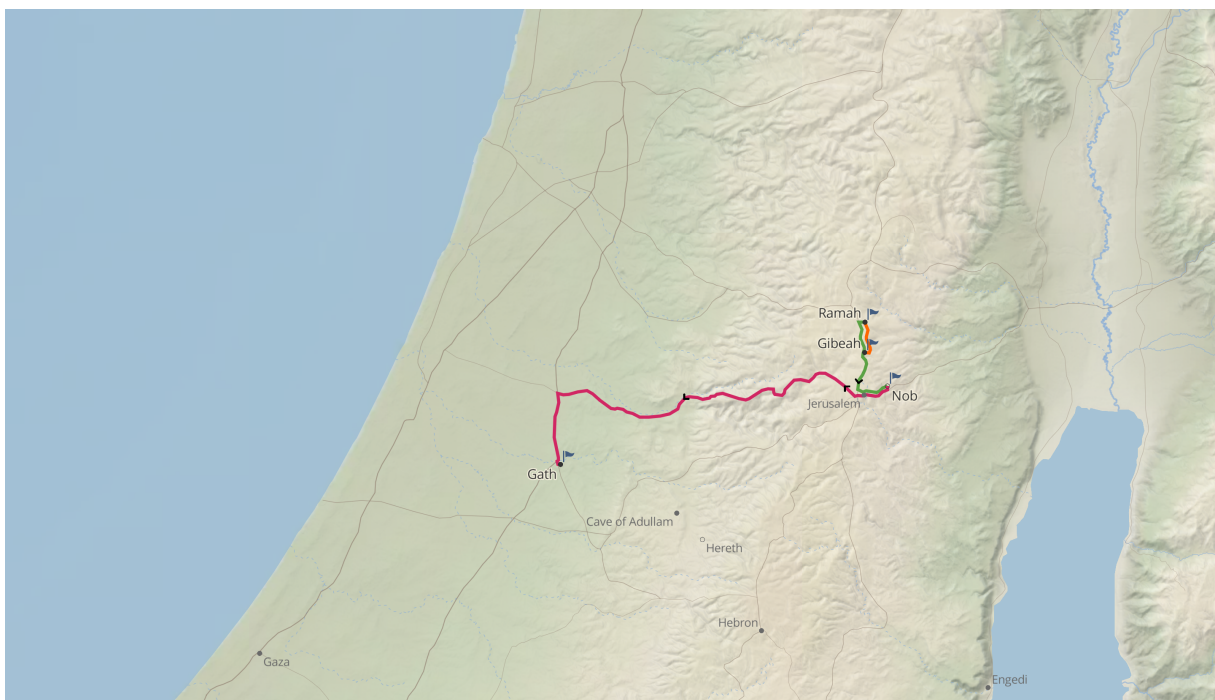
*"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."
(Ephesians 4:30)*

Some believe that Saul was never saved in the first place.

Some believe that Saul was saved but lost his salvation, which would be impossible for the New Testament Christian.

Some believe that Saul was saved and continued to be saved, though he was out of the will of God.

The bottom line for us is, however, that today whoever calls upon the name of the Lord for salvation will be saved, and once a person is saved they are sealed by the Holy Spirit.



DAVID'S FLIGHT FROM SAUL

- City
- ① Numbered movements of David
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Mizpah of Moab #5)
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Keilah #8)
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Wilderness of Maon #13)
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Ziklag #15)
- ← David's offensive actions (#16-19)
- ← David becomes king at Hebron (#20)
- ★ Battle scene

