

Message #55

I Samuel 22:6-23

As a believer, if we have some secret sin that we know about and do nothing about it, it will track us down. If we do not face it and try to cover it, it will cause a downward spiral in our relationship with God and will plummet us into great levels of sinfulness that will eventually bring the judgment of God.

As we come to this text, there are five realities to keep in mind:

- 1) Both Saul and David are Israeli believers.
- 2) Saul is the present King of Israel.
- 3) David is the future King of Israel.
- 4) David is being led by the Spirit of God.
- 5) Saul is being led by a demon spirit of Satan.

So what we have here is an account of one leader who is right with God and one leader who is not right with God. This is not about a difference of politics or opinions or personalities; this is about a Satanic attack against one who is godly.

There is a clear thesis to see here:

WHEN A BELIEVER IS BEING INFLUENCED BY SATAN, HE WILL BE JEALOUS OF ANY TRULY RIGHT WITH GOD AND WILL INVENT LIES TO TRY AND DESTROY HIM; BUT GOD IS ALWAYS SOVEREIGN AND HE WILL PROTECT AND DEVELOP HIS FAITHFUL PEOPLE.

Jealousy is Satanic. God puts jealousy and envy in the same category as witchcraft, murder and immorality (Rom. 1:29; Gal. 5:20-21; Titus 3:3). Everything Satan did against God was because of a Satanic jealousy. If a person is jealous and does not deal with it, it will get worse and worse. The hatred will build and eventually will end in new forms of evil that will lead to the judgment of God.

If you are right with God, sometimes you will find yourself in negative situations and circumstances you cannot explain. There will be times when you will be around people and they will be jealous of you and you may not even know it. At those moments, it is good to remember God is Sovereign and He will use everything in our world for our good. Trouble and warfare are good for us. What we learn is that God does take care of us.

There are a series of seven narrative observations, we want to observe:

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #1 – Saul’s secure environment does not prevent his insecurity. **22:6**

One of the things we see in this verse is that there is a contrast between what Saul is doing and what David is doing. David is hiding in a cave and Saul is at home in Gibeah, sitting out in the open under a shade tree. He has his spear in his hand and is surrounded by his servants.

From initial appearances, Saul seems to be secure, but the reality here is he is totally insecure. One who is not right with God cannot ever truly be secure no matter who they are or what they have.

Recently, I read an interesting article that was written by a man who was close to Elvis Presley. He said Elvis Presley was totally insecure. It did not matter how much money he had, what he owned or how much people liked him; he was totally insecure. That was Saul all the time. Totally insecure.

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #2 – Saul’s verbal speech distorts reality. **22:7-8**

Robert Bergen, in his commentary, said just the mention of David’s name in **verse 6** caused Saul to “launch into a half-crazed tirade” against everyone (1, 2 Samuel, p. 227).

Saul is demonic and he is a liar. He is a lying politician and Satan is behind it. Liars are Satanic. There are two clear distortions of reality Saul invents:

Verbal Distortion #1 - Saul falsely alleges that no Benjamite would ever receive positive possessions or promotions under David. **22:7**

Saul makes the allegation that if David were king, he would not give them any land nor would he make them his leaders. Truth is, David had entered into an agreement with Jonathan to continue to honor Saul’s family, who was from the tribe of Benjamin. Saul is delusional and he is twisting this and spinning this for his own purposes and gain.

He is trying to false convince them that they will lose their prosperity and property and promotions if David is in charge.

Verbal Distortion #2 - Saul falsely alleges that everyone is against him. **22:8**

This is what jealousy does; it totally distorts judgment ability. Saul makes three false allegations here. He twists things and invents things that aren’t even true:

(False Allegation #1) - Saul accuses his own son of disloyalty. **22:8a**

It is true that Jonathan did enter into a covenant agreement with David, but it was for the purpose of protecting David’s life. It was not some plot against Saul. Facts are twisted.

(False Allegation #2) - Saul accuses his own servants of apathy. **22:8b**

Saul says his own servants had been stirred up against Saul and they did not tell Saul about a plot that doesn't exist.

(False Allegation #3) - Saul accuses David of conspiracy. **22:8c**

Saul says that David was lying in ambush for Saul, which is a flat out lie. Saul is trying to kill David.

People who are demonic do not tell the truth. They twist reality to make it fit their own evil agenda.

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #3 – Saul has a self-serving ally who is Doeg. **22:9-10**

It amazes me that demonic people who are evil always find some ally. No matter how distorted or twisted they may be, someone will rally around them. One may be a lying, greedy, immoral politician and people will rally around him.

Doeg, who was an Edomite (Arab), spoke up and said that he saw David go to the priest of Nob, whose name was Ahimelech, and that he saw the priest pray for him and give him provisions and a weapon, which was the sword of Goliath.

We may recall that Doeg was there (I Sam. 21:7). He was Satan's man to be on the scene.

When you are where God wants you to be and doing what God wants you to do, Satan will have his spies who are not your friend but are out to destroy you.

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #4 – Saul confronts Ahimelech the priest with false allegations. **22:11-13**

Saul sent for Ahimelech and the priests to appear before him. When they got there he alleged that Ahimelech had conspired with David against Saul. He alleges that he prayed for David, gave him food and sword so that he could ambush Saul. Every bit of this conspiracy theory was a lie.

Part of the story was true. David did go to Ahimelech, he did get food and he did get a sword, but David was never planning to ambush Saul. He was simply trying to protect himself and survive. So not only is Saul falsely accusing David, but now he is falsely accusing the priests of God as being in cahoots with David. **You cannot ever trust a Satanic liar.**

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #5 – Ahimelech the priest responded to Saul’s false allegations. **22:14-15**

Ahimelech has some integrity. He is straight forward in what he says and he does not lie to appease Saul.

There are six responses he gives to Saul:

Response #1 - David is the most faithful and loyal servant of Saul than anyone else. **22:14a**

Response #2 - David is the King’s son-in-law. **22:14b**

Response #3 - David is captain over the King’s army. **22:14c**

Response #4 - David is an honored man in your house. **22:14d**

Why wouldn’t you help him? He is not some unknown traitor.

Response #5 - David has been prayed for by all the priests. **22:15a**

When David went to Nob, it was not the first time priests had prayed for him. This is how bizarre Saul is. He is mad and jealous that people are praying for David. Saul cannot control the prayer lives of the priests. They prayed for Saul and they prayed for David.

Response #6 - Ahimelech knows nothing about any plot to kill Saul. **22:15b**

This is all true testimony. **Ahimelech knew nothing of a plot to kill Saul because there was no plot.** Ahimelech is telling the truth; but when you tell the truth to one demonic and Satanic, it won’t matter.

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #6 – Saul orders the priests executed. **22:16-19**

This is what the truth does to one demonic; he wants to destroy the one telling the truth. Saul ordered his guards to kill the priests of the LORD.

He persists in his lies. He says they know of David’s plot to kill him and they did not tell me so they need to be killed (**v. 17**). Well the guards and servant would not do it. They would not kill the priests.

So Saul ordered Doeg to do it (**v. 18**). Doeg, who was the demonic Arab partner with Saul, turned around and killed 85 priests. He had no problem killing Jewish people.

According to **verse 19** he went through Nob the city of the priests and he killed men, women children, infants, oxen, donkeys and sheep. He killed all of these things with a sword. It was a bloody frenzy. It was a demonic demonstration of pure evil.

Now even though we do not know how and why this is happening, what we do know is that God is still sovereign.

Clear back in I Samuel 2:27-36 God prophesied to Eli that a terrible judgment would come against his priestly line because of the evil he had allowed in the Tabernacle. That prophecy was now literally coming true. God was going to totally replace the priesthood and so even this evil was still sovereignly controlled by God.

There are a couple of applications to see here:

- 1) God is sovereign over everything.
- 2) Satanic people do evil things.
- 3) God always fulfills prophecy literally, both the positive and the negative.

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #7 – Abiathar a priest escapes and joins up with David.
22:20-23

Abiathar, Ahimelech's son, got away and fled to David's cave and told him everything. David took this very personal. Abiathar would become a very valuable priest to David. In fact, he would hold the office of being David's high priest and his lifelong friend until the end of David's reign (I Sam. 23:9; 30:7; I Chron. 15:11; II Chron. 15:24).

One good thing that came out of this was that God brought David a good and faithful friend and servant whose name was Abiathar.

So what David was learning is that even though he was suffering the hardships of Satanic attack, he was also experiencing the provisions and protection of God. David had his brothers, he had 400 men; he had a prophet—Gad, and he had a priest—Abiathar.

PARTING THOUGHTS:

- 1. People who are influenced by Satan are jealous of those right with God.**
- 2. People who are influenced by Satan hate those right with God.**
- 3. People who are influenced by Satan are liars, who twist truth and distort facts.**
- 4. People who are influenced by Satan appear secure, but they are insecure.**
- 5. People right with God are sovereignly provided for and protected by God.**