

1. Intro: God provided Saul with EVERY opportunity to succeed! (1Sam.10:26-27; 11:13-15)

It seems Saul did not cope well with disappointment and failure! This issue is not whether we will sin/fail BUT what will we do after! How do you respond to failure – in yourself and in others!

His failure was due to: 1. 'fear' of the people. 2. Not trusting God's word implicitly.

God did **not** create a self-fulfilling prophecy of failure. **God does NOT set us up for failure!**

2. Saul & David's relationship started positively 1Sam.16:19-23

Love and respect, David saved Israel, and 'healed' Saul, one of captains of army - what went wrong!?

3. Saul's hatred towards David began with *envy*! 1Sam.18:6-8

The song of the women. (a small seed of bitterness, envy or jealousy can soon grow. It can consume us!)

We MUST learn to 'let it go' – 'forgive & forget'!

Holding on to a grudge only makes us bitter – it affects us mentally, physically, **AND** spiritually!

Aside: **1 Sam. 18:10** – What is in your hand? (Saul – a javelin; David – a harp!)

- A weapon (mean text, lustful picture, worldly music) OR
- An instrument for God (kind text, thoughtful letter/card, motivating quote, psalm of praise)

Note: **1Sam. 15:28** – source of Saul's smouldering jealousy – he **KNEW** David was 'better than him' – it had been prophesied! Cp. **1Samuel 24:20 Dangerous to act against your conscience!!!**

Are there 'words of God' that we know to be true but resent? Listen to your conscience!!

4. The sad 'end game'

1Sam. 18:29 – Saul **BECAME** David's enemy continually! (A choice) See also 1 Sam. 19:7

1Sam. 28:16 – God became his enemy!!! This could happen to us if we 'hate' one of God's children!)

Saul's actions and attitude towards David nearly broke David's spirit! 1 Sam. 26:19 – **being driven from the Ecclesia = serving other gods!** (1Sam. 27:1 – he left the ecclesia)

1. Are we driving people from the Ecclesia by the way we are treating them?
2. Are we allowing the opinion of others to affect how we see ourselves?

We cannot let the opinions/actions of others colour our perspective of ourselves.

Do not judge yourself based on others judgement of you!

Do not be like Saul – forcing others out of the Truth by our attitude/behaviour – humble yourself

Do not be like David – driven out of the Truth b/c of the actions/attitudes of others – trust God

Classic self deception! → 1 Sam. 23:21 (Ziphites betray David) – Saul thought God was directing his steps, even when he was in obvious sin!

How do we 'read the signs' God sends into our lives? Providence?

Saul COULD have some to terms with his failure and loss of the Kingdom by repenting and helping David to get a good start to his Kingdom – for the benefit of Israel.

His choice to not do so was a detriment to David, to himself, his family, and the nation!

5. How did David respond? - He did NOT take matters into his own hand **1Sam. 24:6, 17-19; 26:9-11**

We **MUST** treat our Brothers & Sisters as exactly that - God's chosen/called out ones!

[Note: 1Sam. 25 is about Nabal – between these two incidents about Saul. What David could clearly see re: Saul he almost lost sight of with respect to Nabal! God was developing his character]

- David treated Saul with love and respect although he did NOT deserve it! (This is Godly grace!)

The poor behaviour of others is NOT an excuse for us to behave poorly – towards them or others!

Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good!