

# Spiritual Self-Destruction

THE PURSUIT OF GOD: THE LIFE OF DAVID • 1 SAMUEL 18:5-30, 19:1-24 • JUNE 15, 2025 • PASTOR JIM CALER

*Envy turns companions into competitors and robs relationships of love and peace.*

## The Progression of Envy

1. Envy Begins with a False Foundation of Identity
  - Saul's identity was built on appearance, performance, and public opinion—not God. (1 Samuel 9, 13–15)  
*If your identity is in your success, someone else's success threatens your value.*
2. Envy Grows through Comparison
  - David's praise eclipses Saul's.
  - "Saul has slain his thousands, David his ten thousands." (1 Samuel 18:5–7)  
*Comparison transforms teammates into threats.*
3. Envy Matures into Resentment
  - "So Saul eyed David from that day on." (1 Samuel 18:9)  
*Envy doesn't just want what others have—it resents them for having it.*

## The Damage of Envy

1. Envy Robs
  - "The jealous are troublesome to others, but a torment to themselves." –William Penn
  - "Envy makes the bones rot." (Proverbs 14:30)  
*Envy makes you fearful, insecure, and spiritually fragile.*
2. Envy Turns Us Away from God's Calling
  - "Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)  
*Envy warps your calling to love into a life of hidden bitterness.*

## How to Defeat Envy

1. Pray, Confess, Envy, and Receive Grace
  - Grace doesn't just forgive—it transforms. (Psalm 51)
2. Re-center Your Identity in Christ
  - Know who God says you are! (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:14; Ephesians 2:10)
3. Choose Gratitude Over Comparison
  - Thank God for your gifts instead of fixating on the gifts of others. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
4. Celebrate Others, Even When It Costs You
  - Complement someone's success and pray for their continued growth. (Romans 12:15)

5. Recognize Who Really Belongs on the Throne
  - Submit yourself to Christ and follow His example. (1 Samuel 18:3-4)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

### Open Up (everyone answer one of these two questions)

- What is one skill or talent someone else has that you wish you had?
- What is one thing you went out to buy specifically because someone else had it and that made you want it?

### Dig In

1. What stood out to you the most from today's sermon about David and Saul? How did it make you reflect on your own experiences?
2. Who are you most tempted to compare yourself to? Why?
3. What do you think would happen if you began to celebrate their success?
4. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-12:
  - Why do you think the people/women and Saul view David so differently in these verses?
  - Saul's jealousy led to destructive behavior but David didn't respond in kind. What does it say to you that in verse 11 that David eluded him twice?
  - Be brave, Reflect on a time when you were either in Saul's position (jealous/insecure) or David's position (someone was jealous of you). How did you handle it? Did your reaction make the situation better or worse? What would you do differently now after hearing the message today?
5. Read 1 Samuel 24:2-11
  - What does this tell you about why David responded to Saul the way He did?
  - Have you ever had to deal with a difficult authority figure in your life (e.g., a boss, teacher, parent)? How did you handle the situation? What could you learn from David's example?

### Live It Out

- Are you spending daily time reading the Bible, so that you can be confident in who God made you to be? If not, what is one step you can take today to make it a priority?
- How can you be gracious in your success towards someone who may be tempted to envy you?
- How can you celebrate someone else this week that you may be tempted to envy?
- How can you serve someone this week that you may be tempted to resent?

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