

"It's been a long time since we heard preaching like that!" The remark stabs at the pastor's heart laying open tender flesh.

Saul became angry and thought within himself, "They have credited David with tens of thousands...but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" Again, while all that applies to Saul may not apply to the team leader who is faced with an occasion for jealousy, yet there is a parallel. The success and praise of the subordinate may be interpreted as a prelude to disaster for the leader. "If that's the way people regard him, the next step is to elevate him to my position and get rid of me."

While such a thought may come to mind, it need not be entertained; it can be rejected. In Phil. 1:18 Paul could say in regard to the ambitious men who were agitating in order to harm him, "But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice." So in a noble display of self-forgetfulness, Paul was able to keep his feet and not slide into anger and self-vindication.

In 1 Samuel 18 Jonathan stands as a sterling example of self-forgetfulness. He, after all, was the heir to Saul's throne. David was a threat to him as well as to his father. His attitude toward David was magnanimous. He recognizes in David a man on whom God has laid His hand in a special way and he rejoices in David's success. Unfortunately, his father was incapable of such an attitude.

In verse 9 there is evidence that Saul's jealousy became habitual, "...from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David."