

SUMMER OF SIN: ENVY

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1 Samuel 18:6-9

⁶As they were coming home, when David returned from killing the Philistine, the women came out of all the towns of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. ⁷And the women sang to one another as they made merry, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands." ⁸Saul was very angry, for this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands; what more can he have but the kingdom?" ⁹So Saul eyed David from that day on.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it

again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?

2. What triggers Saul's shift in attitude? Look closely at verses 6 and 7. Saul was fine until he heard the song of the women. Why do you think a song of celebration sparked such a dark reaction in him?
3. Reflect on your life. What people, situations, or circumstances have caused you to be jealous? Verse 9 says that Saul eyed David from that day forward. What does it mean to eye someone with jealousy?
4. Saul assumed that if David was getting tens of thousands of praises, there was less praise left for him. How does envy trick us into believing that God's favor or success is a limited resource that is running out?
5. Envy didn't hurt David in this passage; it consumed Saul. In what ways have you experienced envy as a self-inflicted burden that steals your energy, peace, and joy?
6. How can we actively train our brains to react with genuine joy when someone else wins? What is one practical phrase or habit

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we can use to kill envy before it takes root?

7. It is incredibly difficult to harbor bitter envy toward someone you are actively praying for. How can praying specifically for the success and blessing of people we are jealous of change our hearts?