



By Mrs. Bessie Wilbon

**INTRODUCTION**

..Since our last lesson from 1 Samuel 12, much has been happening in the Biblical narrative. Saul has reigned for two years when a succession of his bad choices led to his rejection of God. Chapter 16 tells of Samuel's private anointing of David to be king. Chapter 17 tells of the life-long friendship of David and Jonathan, Saul's son. Today's lesson begins just after their friendship has begun.

(1 Samuel 18:5-9) "David was successful on all the missions on which Saul sent him, and so Saul made him an officer in his army. This pleased all of Saul's officers and men. As David was returning after killing Goliath and as the soldiers were coming back home, women from every town in Israel were coming out to meet king Saul. They were singing joyful songs, dancing and playing tambourines and lyres. In their celebration, the women sang, 'Saul has killed thousands, but David tens of thousands.' Saul did not like this and he became very angry. He said, 'For David they claim tens of thousands, but only thousands for me. They will be making him king next!' And so he was jealous and suspicious of David from that day on.

The evil result of Saul's jealousy should be a reminder to us. Jealousy comes from selfishness and lack of love and respect for another. When we are envious of the success or good fortune of a rival, are unwilling to give credit to someone else for his accomplishments, are scornful of another's rise to prominence, we betray symptoms of jealousy. We should so love others that we are delighted with their progress and grieved rather than pleased by their failures. Jealousy is indeed a "green-eyed monster" and, just as it devoured Saul, so will it consume any who allow it to enter their minds or spirits.

Jealousy leads to just the opposite attitudes from that which the Christian virtue of love inspires. Love expresses goodwill toward another, while jealousy promotes ill will. Jealousy hopes for another's failure; love hopes for his success. Jealousy is full of doubt - doubt about the worth of the one we envy, and doubt about our own resources. Else why are we so jealous? Love is alive with faith! Faith in God's goodness, faith in our fellow's worth and use of God's gifts and faith in our own future based on what God has already given us and will yet give us in His Son.

One of the delightful stories of youth that is appealing is "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Walt Disney made it into an animated cartoon classic.

At the heart of this fairy tale is the wicked queen who does everything in her power to destroy Snow White so she can retain her position as "the most beautiful in the land."

The wicked queen is a clever caricature of mankind in our lust to retain power. The tragedy is that we may at times be unaware of how vulnerable we are to this temptation. It can appear in many guises, in small as well as in the large issues of life.

Saul experienced this desperate urge to retain his power as he saw a rival in David, and it led him to plot David's death. Too often we employ gossip, backbiting, and ill will to bring down those we dislike or view as rivals. We need to examine our minds and our relationships daily to discern if we are tempted to sin in order to have our own way.

(1 Samuel 18:12-16) Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with David but had abandoned him. So Saul sent him away and put him in command of a thousand men. David led his men in battle, and was successful in all he did, because the Lord was with him. Saul noticed David's success and became even more afraid of him. But everyone in Israel and Judah loved David because he was a successful leader.

It is most instructive to consider, while Jonathan loved David, the soldiers honored him, the court favored him and the people applauded him, only Saul ... hated him. The holy songs of David had not more quieted his spirit before, than now the thankful songs of the Israelitish women vexed him. The roots of this envy and hatred can be traced back to a sense of pride and overconfidence that must have come to Saul as he was picked out to be the first king of the Hebrews. The fruits of the continued and growing alienation from God were seen in his oversensivity to the praise given to David. He took quite literally the ecstatic exaggeration of the singing women and allowed it to rankle in his heart. Then he became suspicious of David and felt he was undermining his place and power. This grew into a spirit of bitter hatred and fear so he could not stand the presence of David.

Saul wrote of the events in the Old Testament, "These things happened unto them from ensamples: and they are written for our admonition," (1 Corinthians 10:11).



Julia Cureton  
.....Life member of missionaries

**Walls Memorial Holds "Julia Cureton Day"**

The Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Department of Walls Memorial AME Zion Church, recently held "Julia Cureton Day" during their annual Rainbow tea.

The occasion was a time for enjoying a fine feast of foods displayed on tables that represented every color of the rainbow.

After the body was filled the Washington Family Singers of Waxhaw proceeded to supply the nourishment for the soul by singing some good gospel music.

In recognition of Mrs. Cureton, several poems and speeches were presented. A third grade teacher at Starmount Elementary

School, Mrs. Cureton is the wife of Samuel Cureton. They have two sons Gordon and Shawn.

Mrs. Cureton has dedicated herself to doing God's work. She is a life member of Missionary Society, chairperson of the Budget Committee, the Day Care Board, the Flower Committee, Missionary Circle No. 5, co-chairperson of the Host and Hostess Committee, secretary of the Centennial Steering Committee and a member of Class No. 1.

The affair was coordinated by president of the Missionaries, Mrs. Hazel Boyd, and was presided by the vice president, Mrs. Helen Gerald.

**Sgt. Mowrey Recognized For His "Achievements"**

Mecklenburg County Police Sergeant Glen Mowrey was recognized in a ceremony this week at the County Police Department for his achievements as a student at the Southern Pines Police Institute of the University of Louisville.

Sgt. Mowrey, the 1978 Mecklenburg County Employee of the Year, completed the Institute's 12-week Administrative Officer's Course with a 4.0 grade point average and was named a Dean's Scholar for his academic excellence. County Police Chief Bruce C. Abercrombie presented Sgt. Mowrey with an honors award during the recent ceremony.

A native of Dade County, Fla., Mowrey was a police officer in Miami before joining the Mecklenburg force in 1972. He has been instrumental in es-

tablishing the County's Crime Prevention Program, and he has been involved in a number of other crime prevention efforts, including these: Officer Friendly - he is known by this name to hundreds of school children who have heard him speak on police work and safety; Operation Mail Carrier - he has visited every area post office branch and talked with carriers about reporting unusual incidents; Beware Stranger - he has designed and produced a 12-page coloring book to educate children in safety and security.



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