

How to Deal With an Angry Man
A Study of King Saul and David
From a sermon on www.aubeacon.com

Text: 1 Sam. 18:5-12 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, *and* behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. Now it had happened as they were coming *home*, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *only* thousands. Now *what* more can he have but the kingdom?" So Saul eyed David from that day forward. And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played *music* with his hand, as at other times; but *there was* a spear in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice. Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul.

Introduction: Life is often unfair.

A. You will be tested by spear throwers in your life!

1. We should not be surprised when this happens. **(1 Pet. 3:13-17)** And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. "*And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.*" But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

2. I have learned that angry men rarely (if ever) yield to reason.

B. These occasions will show you what kind of faith you really have.

1. We have a great example of this situation in King Saul and David.

2. In the end David had developed a stronger faith in God.

I. An angry man does not act upon reason and principle.

A. Many have not learned to fight the sin of uncontrolled anger.

1. There is a proper place for anger but we often go beyond it. Some say a Christian should never be angry, this angers me! As it denies God's word and reason! **Ephesians 4:26-27** "*Be angry, and do not sin*": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

2. The world is taught this anger as a way of life. They are willingly accepting a cancer of the soul.

3. Many Christians have neglected this as well.

a. Some treat anger and hatred it as nothing more than a fleabite. (**1 Jn 3:15**) Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

b. Others laugh at it. Do you want to go to heaven? (**Gal 5:19-21**) Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

4. Many come from angry homes and have learned this as a way of life.

a. An alcoholic home commonly has anger at its root.

b. Some of the angriest people that I have known would deny that they have an anger problem.

B. It is not uncommon to have an enemy without a cause!

1. **Psalms 35:19** Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies; Nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause.

2. **Psalms 69:4** Those who hate me without a cause Are more than the hairs of my head; They are mighty who would destroy me, *Being* my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I *still* must restore *it*.

3. How can this be? This is a common tool of Satan!

4. A Christians effectiveness can be blocked to one who has listened to gossip! **Prov 18:19** A brother offended *is harder to win* than a strong city, And contentions *are* like the bars of a castle.

5. A person can do you wrong and then hate you! **Prov 26:28** A lying tongue hates *those who are* crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

C. Saul became David's enemy because of envy. (**1 Sam 18:7-9**)

1. David would do anything for Saul! Even though David tried to help, this was something completely beyond David's ability to change.

2. Jealousy and Anger made Saul a crazy man!

3. This is why the Jewish leaders killed Jesus. **Mark 15:10** For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.

II. An angry man will use any weapon at his disposal.

A. This is what you would expect when Satan is in control! **Proverbs 14:29** *He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.* **Proverbs 14:17** A quick-tempered *man* acts foolishly, And a man of wicked intentions is hated.

1. Saul became a spear thrower! (**1 Sam 18:10-11**) And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played *music* with his hand, as at other times; but *there was* a spear in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

2. There is no thought as to consequences or to really look at David's innocence. ?

B. Saul pretended to care for David but actually wanted to harm him.

1. He pushed for David to marry one of his daughters as an honor to him.

2. His real motive was for David's harm. **1 Samuel 18:17** Then Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight the Lord's battles." For Saul thought, "Let my hand not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him."

3. It takes time for David to learn the difference between what Saul said and what he thought!

4. An angry man will blindly sacrifice his family for his anger. **Eph 6:4** And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

III. An angry man is often successfully in lining up others to his cause.

A. Saul tried to manipulate and then kill his own son Jonathan! 1 Sam. 20:30 -33
Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?" Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.

1. Saul openly asks others to kill David. **1 Samuel 19:1** Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David.

2. For the moment Saul listens to reason and proclaims what is right! **(1 Sam 19:4-6)**

3. Because Saul's life was based on the flesh and not on principle, he returns to his bitterness and tries to kill David again. **(1 Sam 19:9-10)** Now the distressing spirit from the Lord came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing *music* with *his* hand. Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night. Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped.

4. Listen to his appeal to Jonathan: If you want to be king Kill David! **(1 Sam 20:30-31)**

5. As a man of faith, Jonathan rejects this temptation and plainly tells the truth. Saul, in turn, tries to kill Jonathan. **(1 Sam 20:32-33)**

6. An angry man hates the one who places reason in the way of his anger!

B. Saul was very successful in lining up those in Israel that lived by the flesh.

1. David spared the city of Gath from the Philistines and thus should have been safe there. God revealed to him the real loyalty of these people. **(1 Sam 23:11-12)**

2. Many out of fear or favor to an angry man will sell you out! Sadly some churches are filled with cowardly men who will not stand up.

3. David found himself surrounded by new enemies because others wanted to please King Saul. Consider the Ziphites. **(1 Sam 23:19-20)**

4. Please remember that God will stand with you when men run away. The greatest hurt will come from your brethren! **(Psa 55:4-5, 12-14)**

IV. How can one defeat an angry man? (In reality we can't, let God handle it)

A. Nothing will test your faith in God as much as dealing with an unreasonable, deceitful, hate-filled person. (dozens of people have told me they have left a congregation because of one individual man)

1. A hard lesson to learn is that you cannot change another against their will!

2. The Psalms are filled with pleas to God for deliverance from enemies. Let this draw you closer to God. **(Ps 13:2; 25:2, 19; 42:9-11)**

B. Satan will strongly tempt you to become like your enemy.

1. What does the world say? Some Christians think that once someone fires the first shot then all rules are off! (Never get in a puking match with a buzzard)

2. What did Jesus do with His enemies? **(1 Pet. 2:21-24)**

a. Jesus responded this way because He trusted God.

b. We are greatly challenged to respond in the same way. **(Rom 12:17-21)**

C. This adversity should cause you to draw closer to God. **(Psa 27:11-14)**

1. The world will scream at you: Hit him back!

2. There is a calmness and a strength that come from knowing the battle is God's and that He will deliver. **(Psa 60:12; 61:2-4; 31:8)**

3. While your enemy frets and plots in his self-defeating bitterness, you can move on and rejoice in the manifold blessings of God. **(Psa 23:4-6)**

4. You also will draw closer to Christians! What a blessing!

Conclusion: Are you a child of God or an enemy of God?

A. God will defeat every enemy in time. How will it be for you? (**Heb 1:13; 10:12-13**)

B. God's love can defeat your bitterness if you would seek it.