

The King & The Kingdom

1 Samuel 18-20

One response to God's King is to reject Him

1. The first characteristic of rejecting God's King is jealousy. How do we see Saul's jealousy (18:8-9)?
2. Can you think of a time you have been jealous of someone? Why do we become jealous, and what does jealousy reveal about us?
3. The second characteristic associated with rejecting God's King is rejecting reality. Saul keeps trying to bring David down, yet David keeps rising higher. Why does Saul never give in to reality?
4. It was mentioned that we all must come to terms with reality which might mean giving up certain dreams. Have you ever had to give up on a dream and had to learn to be okay with this? What does this have to do with following God's King?
5. Another characteristic of Saul is irrationality. Why is it irrational for Saul to try to kill David (18:29-19:1)? What are some other examples of ways sin causes us act irrationally?
6. One reason Saul's sin is irrational is that it will affect his relationship with his children. They both end up lying to him or deceiving him. What are some common ways sin affects those who are close to us? Have you been affected by someone's sin who was close to you? Have you affected someone who was close to you by your sin?

The second response to God's King is to follow Him

7. We learn that following God's King requires sacrifice. According to vv.1-4 what does Jonathan sacrifice? What are some examples of sacrifices we should expect to make if we follow God's King?
8. Following God's King is costly. What does Jonathan risk by siding with David? What will this relationship cost him? What has following Christ cost you? What should it cost you?
9. Following God's King requires allegiance. Jonathan sides with David against his father because Jonathan had a greater allegiance to David. Has your commitment to Christ affected relationships with people close to you?
10. How would you explain Matthew 10:34-37 to someone who said it seems to contradict the command to honor father and mother (Exodus 20:12)?
11. Following God's King requires a deep, lasting commitment. Both Jonathan and David remain faithful to their covenant with one another. Why does Jonathan make and keep this covenant with David when it doesn't seem to personally benefit him?

Pointing forward to God's Ultimate King

12. What are some ways we see these same two reactions (rejecting and following) to Jesus?
13. Many people want to be neutral toward Jesus. Why? Explain why this is not an option.
14. What are some qualities we see in Jesus that we saw in Jonathan? Why should this make us love him and follow Him?